

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music: Hymn 88, v. 6

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy shadows of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Christmas Fantasy for Organ and Brass" arr. Raney

Call to Worship

My soul magnifies the Lord.

My spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For the Mighty One has done great things,

and holy is God's name.

* Hymn 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"
Verses 1 and 4 - all; verse 2 - women; verse 3 - men; Refrain - all
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

**Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,
yet we often make plans without listening to you.**

**We discover that our human agendas
can drown out our ability to hear your will for us.**

We repent of these faults and turn to you in love.

**Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins,
that our lives may magnify your holy name forever.**

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

**The candle of love tells what we are worth:
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be
The one who would save us and set us all free.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 (OT, 638)

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27 (NT, p. 165)

A Time with Children

Anthem

"Joy to the World"

arr. Larson

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:46-55 (NT, p. 57)

Sermon: "A Revolutionary Christmas"

Rev. Carter

Sermon Series: Have Yourself a Spiritual Little Advent

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

arr. Larson

* Response 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low, Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one

Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"
 - * Charge and Benediction
 - * Benediction Response 601
 - * Postlude "Angels from the Realms of Glory" arr. Laskey
- 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.

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 | Chris Norton |
| Advent Candle | Susan Flynn and family |
| Ushers | Jim McLaughlin, Betty Keen |
| Brass | Jeff Leas and Jesse Morvan, trumpet, Malcom Viney, trombone |

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



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."