

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020

10:00 a.m.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"A Bell Prelude"

Nathaniel Worrell

Call to Worship

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations;

***You have been our home throughout all the ages.***

You were there before the world was made and will be forever.

***From everlasting to everlasting you are God.***

Hymn 662

"Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light;  
Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see;  
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiance divine; scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

***Loving God,***

***we confess that we have sinned against you  
by not honoring you or one another.***

***When we place our iniquities before you,  
it is your love that sheds light on our wayward deeds.***

***As we stand in awe of your constancy for us,  
we ask your forgiveness through the mercy of Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.***

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

### First Lesson: Psalm 123

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!  
As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.  
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt.  
Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease,  
of those the contempt of the proud.

### A Moment with Our Children

#### Second Lesson: Matthew 25. 14-30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my one with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all who have, more will be given, and they will have abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Sermon: “The Way to Go, or Not!”

Rev. Thyren

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

Hymn 714

“God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:

forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned, that all in every land be clothed and fed.

2 We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;  
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care for people everywhere, that all may live.

3 As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.  
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused, no humble task refused your love bestows.

4 God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:  
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you. Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;***

***who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;***

***the third day he rose again from the dead;***

***he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;***

***from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;***

***the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;***

***the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Offering

Offertory

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

arr. Anthony Giamanco

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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

Hymn 716

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

2 Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Now Thank We All Our God"

arr. Wayne Kerr

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**The flowers** have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marjorie Ash by her sister, Janet Stansbury.

### **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Guest Preacher	Rev. James Thyren
Liturgist	John Weiss
Coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Usher	Bill Farrell

### **Church Family Announcements**

**We welcome all** to our worship today. **Please sign in at the Welcome Table.** (In the event of an infection, you will be contacted.)

*Our congregation intends to worship God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.*

For those of us in the sanctuary today, there are some details to review in the hope that no virus will be spread due to this gathering.

- All are required to wear face masks, sit only in designated pews, and maintain six feet of distance from people of other households.
- You may participate in the spoken segments of the service, but please do not sing.
- If you would like to visit with other worshippers, do so after exiting the building.
- At present, seating is limited to 50 people in the sanctuary, including worship leaders. Notify the church office ([office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org) or 570-586-6306) by Friday noon when you plan to attend.

**Christian Education for children and youth** continues despite the pandemic. See below for offerings. Contact Jana Schillinger for additional information at [ce@fpccs.org](mailto:ce@fpccs.org).

For kids and teens, we offer:

- **Grace & Faith:** children age 4 to grade 5 will have a weekly lesson from our *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* curriculum. We will post a short video, downloadable worksheets, and more at [fpccsaway-grace.blogspot.com](http://fpccsaway-grace.blogspot.com) for you to enjoy whenever fits best in your schedule.
- **We Believe:** youth grade 6 and up can visit [fpccsaway-believe.blogspot.com](http://fpccsaway-believe.blogspot.com) for a weekly post featuring a Bible passage, reflection, and questions to ponder.

For Adults: **Rev. Carter will lead an Advent Bible study on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23).**

**Tell us your prayer concerns. Prayer Request Cards** are available in the pews. They may be dropped in the offering plates as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

## **ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET – November 1 through 22, 2020**

The Mission and Justice Committee in past years has sponsored the Alternative Gift Market, usually held on a Sunday in late November. The Alternative Gift Market provides the opportunity for the congregation and the greater community to purchase fair trade items produced internationally, and also to support efforts to assist disadvantaged people throughout the world.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we are unable this year to have the market displays and personal interaction we have previously enjoyed. Nonetheless, we still intend to have the market using a somewhat diminished and different format. Products and services for SERRV International and Heifer International will still be offered for purchase. **From November 1 through November 22**, catalogs from these entities will be available in the church narthex. You will then be able to purchase your items directly. Please return the catalogs to the narthex upon completion of your order(s).

For those of you who do not plan to be in the church building, on-line catalogs are also available for your benefit as follows:

SERRV International – [serrv.org](http://serrv.org)  
Heifer International – [heifer.org](http://heifer.org)

In addition, as has been done in the past to support more local projects, it will be possible to purchase candy (\$8.00 per 1 lb. box) supporting Appalachian Service Project (ASP). Forms, with ordering directions, will also be available in the church narthex during the above referenced dates, or you may contact Sue Whitman, ASP coordinator, at (570) 510-1356.

Thank you for your continued support of these important missions.

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### **We are being offered two opportunities to share the love of Christ during this Advent.**



Pajamas for  
local children

The first will sound familiar: do you remember the Angel Tree? Of course! The mission of providing pajamas to Scranton Head-Start programs **will** take place. You may sign up to purchase pajamas for a child by going to our website, [fpcps.org](http://fpcps.org), or by calling the church office on weekdays.

When you sign up, you will be given the size and gender of a child that needs warm pajamas for winter.



The second opportunity is brand new! Our Christian Education Committee is offering Advent Boxes for our members and friends. Take time as a family to explore the meaning of Advent. We encourage our families to **sign up to receive an Advent Box** filled with an Advent calendar, devotions, activity suggestions, supplies for a craft, and more. All ages and everyone in the church is welcome and encouraged to participate, so boxes will be available both for families with children and for those without.

## This Week at a Glance

### Today

10:00AM \* Morning Worship Sanctuary

### Monday, November 16

6:00PM \* Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, November 17

10:00AM \* PW Circle Bible Study – Lesson 9 Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, November 18

5:30PM \* BoomWhacker Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

7:00 \* Bell Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

### Thursday, November 19

8:30AM \* Men's Breakfast Fellowship Hall

7:30PM \* Lyric Rehearsal Sanctuary

### Friday, November 20

9:30 AM \* Immerse Study Group - Poets Room 206

### Saturday, November 21

### Sunday, November 22 Christ the King Sunday

10:00AM \* Worship - Reserve your seat: [office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org) or 570-586-6306 Sanctuary

4:00PM All-Church Recital – Being Broadcast on **YouTube**

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\* denotes gathering is face-to-face, with masks and socially-distant seating.

**(Z)** denotes gathering is online using ZOOM. Check our website or call the office for the link.

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

### Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit offers electronic Giving as a way to support the church on a regular or one-time basis. You can go to **fpccs.org** or scan the QR code (at right) anytime to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Why not give it a try today?

