

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
Third Sunday of Advent

Third Sunday  
of Advent

December 12, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Almighty God, prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



*In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.*

## **ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"Prelude and Fugue No. 2 in C minor BWV 847"

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

Blessed is the Holy One our God,

***who has sent a mighty Savior to redeem us.***

Rejoice in the Lord; again, rejoice!

***Be gentle to all: the Lord is near.***

\* Hymn 107

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

*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 that 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 world.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;

the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

***We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.***

Advent Response

***A candle is burning, a candle of Joy;***

***a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.***

***Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow***

***as Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.***

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (OT, p. 876)

Psalter: Isaiah 12:2-6 (Hymnal 71)

Refrain: ***Surely it is God who saves me. I will trust and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.***

A Time with Children

Anthem

Second Lesson: Luke 3:7-18 (NT, p. 60)

Sermon: "That Water Burns!"

Rev. Carter

*Advent/Christmas Series: The End of the World As We Know It*

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

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

\* Affirmation of Faith: Declaration of Faith (PCUS)

***In Christ the new world has already broken in  
and the old can no longer be tolerated.  
We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.  
But hope plunges us into the struggle  
for victories over evil that are possible now  
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.  
Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition,  
however invincible it may seem,  
for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming.  
Jesus is Lord!  
He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end.  
Even now he is Lord.***

Offering

Offertory

"Prelude No. 9 in E major Op. 11"

Alexander Skrjabin

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

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

\* Hymn 362

"Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"

- \* Charge and Benediction
- \* Congregational Response (to 88)

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

- \* Postlude "Sonata in Bb Major Op. 24 No. 2; 1st Movement" Muzio Clementi

*If you are leaving before the music is finished, please do so quietly.*

- 
- \* 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
Pianist	Nathaniel Worrell
Liturgist	Phil Muntzel
Advent Candlelighters	Ginny and Sadie O'Brien

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

### **Church Family Announcements**

**Thank you for joining us for Worship.** We worship every Sunday in two ways!

- Promise to wear a face mask? No covid-related symptoms for the past 14 days? Willing to have your temperature taken at the door? **Join us in person at 10:00 am.** (Reservations are no longer necessary.)
- **Tune in online** for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

Our Session requires masks for all worship services, meetings, and group events in the church building. Temperature checks will continue at church gatherings, and social distancing will be encouraged. We believe in the effectiveness of the covid-19 vaccinations and urge everybody to get vaccinated against covid-19.

If all of us can choose restraint and pursue public health, we have a better chance for stopping the spread of the virus and its variants. In the words of St. Paul, "Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:13-14)

**Thank you for your strong financial support!** The 2022 program budget will soon be finalized. Please return pledge cards to the church office as soon as possible.

**Our sanctuary** is open for prayer whenever the building is open.

**"The Music, Worship & Arts Committee wants to send a big THANK YOU to the team of decorators** that turned our sanctuary into a celebration of Christmas, with the Advent Wreath, Christmas Trees, wreaths, garlands, and candles. Thanks to Bev Bright, Bill Carter, Judy Cutler, John Conklin, Janet Dobson, Don Gross, Donna Kepler, Robin Pinches, Jack Pittman, Jim and Jan Thyren, John and Connie Weiss, and Karen White!!!! And thanks to Corky's Greenhouse for supplying poinsettias and decorating with us!"

**Adults**, please join us on Wednesdays, December 15 and 22, 6 p.m., for an Advent study called **A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas**. We anticipate you will be able to participate both in-person and online. Meets in room 206.

**Holiday Angel Tree: Please return** PJ's to the church, wrapped and tagged, by tomorrow, **December 13**.

The church is **looking for an Audio-Visual technician**. This part-time position will support the video live-streaming and audio needs for our worship services, and will require between two and five hours each week, mostly on Sundays. Training will be provided. As Frank Jones transitions back to his work as our Director of Music, we are looking for someone who can assist him in the technical needs for our worship services. [Send a note to Rev. Bill to express an interest](mailto:pastor@fpccs.org) (pastor@fpccs.org).

### **"Small Gifts - Big Impact"**

As we move closer toward Christmas, the Narthex will be filled with displays inviting you to close the year with a **"gift to a stranger."** In addition to the traditional pajama tree, you can order gifts from Heifer International or Presbyterian Giving Catalog, as well as specific gifts to benefit the Uganda Pygmy Ministry or Afghan and Congolese refugee families in Lackawanna County. Candy to benefit the Appalachian Service Project will be available.

Building on the theme of "Small Gifts - Big Impact," we invite you to mark each gift by selecting a colorful paper strip from the basket in the Narthex and placing it into the slotted box there. These symbols of your generosity will be fashioned into paper chains to further decorate the Narthex. This mission project continues through December 19.

### **Looking Ahead**

**December 18, 8pm: Alan Baker and The Lyric Consort** invite you to their 2021 Lyric Consort Christmas on Saturday evening, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The concert will be at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in downtown Scranton and begin at 8:00 pm. This year they will be singing medieval chants and songs with the added sounds of handbells, as well as Renaissance, Appalachian, and American Colonial music. After intermission, they will share some jazz-tinged carols and in place of a reception, songs of feasting and toasting. General admission is \$10.00 with tickets available at the door.

**December 21**, 7 p.m. – Blue Christmas Service in the sanctuary

**December 24**, 4 p.m., 8 p.m., 11 p.m. – Christmas Eve Services in the sanctuary

## Meetings this week

Sunday, December 12	Third Sunday of Advent	
	10 a.m. Worship	Sanctuary
	11 a.m. "Small Gifts – Big Impact"	Narthex
	11:15 a.m. Confirmation Class	Room 206
Monday, December 13	Return Pajama-tree gifts to Narthex	
Tuesday, December 14	10 a.m. MBKQuilters	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m. Session	Room 206
	7 p.m. Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 15	9 a.m. Packing food at Weinberg Food Bank	
	10:30 a.m. Prayer and Share	Room 209
	6 p.m. "The Way" Adult class	Room 206
	7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	
Thursday, December 16	8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast	Room 206
	2 p.m. Sr. Game Group	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m. AlAnon	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m. Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, December 17	9 a.m. Packing food at Weinberg Food Bank	
Saturday, December 18	2 p.m. Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
	10 a.m. Worship	Sanctuary
	11 a.m. "Small Gifts – Big Impact" Concludes today	
	11:15 a.m. Confirmation Class	Room 206
	6:30 p.m. Recital	Sanctuary

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**