



First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

10:00 a.m.

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

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Hymn and Words of Welcome

Prelude

“He Shall Feed His Flock”

Connie Weiss, Oboe

from The Messiah

Call to Worship

from Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me.

The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight -
indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

***But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears?***

* Hymn 88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verses 1-4)

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Lord Christ,

we confess our willingness to be loved

but also our reluctance to love.

We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love

but also our refusal to forgive.

We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love

but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent season, forgive our failure to respond as we could.

Come to us anew, and by your grace,

assist us to receive you with joy, gratitude, obedience, and love.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Response (to Hymn 150)

Light a candle bright and tall for the Peace we wish to know.

Peace on earth for great and small, God's good news to us bestows.

Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Peace, to us, we pray.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11 (NT, p. 196)

Psalter: Psalm 126 (Hymnal 74)

A Time with Children

Anthem “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” arr. John Leavitt

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:28-33 (NT, p. 57)

Sermon: “Perplexed By Grace”

Rev. Carter

Series: Luke's Christmas Carols

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

* Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

***Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.***

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

***preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word
and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

A Minute for Generosity

Chris Norton

Offering

Offertory "Comfort, Comfort These My People" arr. Michael Burkhardt

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 107 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" arr. Wilber Held

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

* All who are able shall stand.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgists	Tabbi Miller-Scandle & Ariana Scandle
Advent Wreath	Tabbi Miller-Scandle, Tony and Ariana Scandle
Ushers	Betsey Ellis and Bill Farrell

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

Church Family Announcements

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

Thank you for joining us for Worship.

- Join us at 10:00 a.m. in person or on our YouTube channel, (or stream the service on YouTube at a later time).
- Please use the red attendance pads to record your presence today.
- Large-print bulletins are located at the rear of the sanctuary.

This morning for our children:

- The Nursery is staffed regularly on Sunday mornings from 9:40 to 11:10 a.m. Located in room 208 (sanctuary level), it is furnished with a changing table, and age-appropriate toys and books for children ages 3 and younger.
- Bible Time leaders will be sharing about God's promise of peace, God's gift of love, and stories of Jesus and John the Baptist.

Following worship this morning, you are invited to Fellowship Hall to enjoy a light lunch and fellowship, followed by a program that includes a Bible reading, discussion and an activity to celebrate the season of Advent.

This event is part of our **LIFT** program (which means Living In Faith Together) provided by our Christian Education committee. One way for us to share our faith with the next generation is to let our children participate in Christian activities with us from a very young age. Please join us.

Tell us your prayer concerns. Prayer Request Cards are in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn.

Please pray for: Hall, Judy, Renee, Clyde, Emily, Denise, Sawyer, Marion, Nancy J., Debbie S., Jerry, Dawn, Chris, JoAnne, Sue, Jeanette, Rob, Lucy, Dennis V., Marlene, Yaya and Fedeline, Ann, Tim, Hooper family, Bill, Mike, our country, Jason, Bobby, Craig K., Gary K., Phil, the Garnecki family, Tucker, Frank, Cheryl, Kathy, Tim, Wayne, Ray.

Please join us on Wednesday evenings!



For adults, we continue a Wednesday Advent Bible study titled, "*Hallelujah: The Bible in Handel's Messiah.*" It will meet at 5:45 p.m. in Room 206. Feel free to bring a sandwich or salad to enjoy while we meet. This short series will reflect on Handel's Messiah and how it proclaims scripture. Enrich your Christmas season with a deeper appreciation of this well-loved oratorio.

Themes include:

- December 11: Who May Abide the Day of His Coming
- December 18: For Unto Us a Child Is Born

Adult Choir rehearsal is 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Bell Choir rehearsal is 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

A Pre-confirmation meeting is set for next Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

The Mobile Food Pantry serves several families in the area. If you know of someone needing assistance with food insecurity in their home, invite them to contact fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com or church office at 570-586-6306 to pre-register (which is required). Next distribution is December 12, 4-6 p.m.



Join us on

December 16, 2024

7:00 p.m.

In the sanctuary

and live-streamed on ZOOM

(link available on www.fpccs.org)

Our deacons are sponsoring a Grief Support group for the community. It meets at the Gathering Place, 304 S. State St., Clarks Summit the third Thursday of the month, the next being December 19, 6 p.m. It is open to all.

Thanks for all who are taking part in our annual Pajama Drive for children in Head Start programs. Please return your present, wrapped or in a gift bag along with the attached tag, by this Tuesday, **December 10**.

Can you help? At the end of November 2024, total pledge receipts were running \$28,500 behind budget. The Session is counting on our generous congregation to help the church catch up during the Advent and Christmas Season. **Thank you.**

Give A Gift to a Stranger is our invitation to you from Sunday December 1 through Sunday December 22. There will be tables in the Narthex with displays and information about the recipients of our gifts. For each gift, a paper star will be hung on the tree and elsewhere in the Narthex to create a visual of our giving. You will have the opportunity to buy gifts for individual refugee family members (look for the paper angels and paper pine trees on the tree), support Appalachian Service Project by buying their chocolates, support the Pygmy Ministry, and continue to help fund the education of Haitian students. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." (Matthew 25:35)

Ice Festival Art Show At First Presbyterian: we are happy to again host a juried photographic exhibit, as well as the fine artwork of its talented parishioners at the 2025 Clarks Summit Ice Festival. If you would like to be a part of the event, here's what you need to know. **Elaine Tweedy** will coordinate the Art Show in January. **If you are interested in participating, you will need to let her know by December 31st, 2024.** You can contact Elaine via her cell at 570-575-1705 or email: elainetweedy@gmail.com. All participants must be registered by that date. There will be no late entries accepted. Check the December Presbyter for additional details.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 8

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- Following the anthem, Children's Bible Time
- 11:15, LIFT Program in Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 9

Tuesday, December 10

- 10 a.m., MBK quilters, Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111

Wednesday, December 11

- 10:30 a.m., Prayer and Share, Room 209
- 5:45 p.m., Adult Bible Study, Room 206
- 7 p.m., Adult Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m., AlAnon, Room 206
- 8 p.m., Bell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 12

- 4 p.m., Mobile Food Pantry distribution, Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 13

Saturday, December 14

- 12 p.m., Lake Foundation program, Room 111

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- Following the anthem, Children's Bible Time
- 11:15 a.m., Pre-confirmation meeting
- 1:30 and 6 p.m., piano recitals, Sanctuary

Looking Ahead:

Monday, December 16

- 7 p.m., Blue Christmas Service, Sanctuary

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