



By the  
**TENDER MERCY**  
of our God,  
**THE DAWN**  
from on high  
**WILL BREAK**  
upon us.

**LUKE 1:78, NRSV**

**First Presbyterian Church**

Service for the Lord's Day  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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 128

Words of Welcome

Prelude "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Anna Laura Page

Call to Worship from Psalm 80

Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see;

**Give us life, and we will call on your name.**

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

**Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

\* Hymn 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"  
*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 of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

\* Response (to Hymn 150)

**Light a candle bright and tall for a Love which knows no end.**

**Love that comes to one and all, fear and hatred to upend.**

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

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5(a) (OT, p. 865)

Psalter: Psalm 80 (Hymnal 355)

A Time with Children

Anthem

"Messiah Medley"

arr. Dan Edwards

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:68-79 (NT, p. 58)

Sermon: "When the Past is Present"

Rev. Carter

*Series: Luke's Christmas Carols*

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

\* Hymn 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

\* 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

Offering

Offertory "Away in a Manger" (Cradle Song) arr. Malcolm Archer

\* Doxology

\* Prayer of Dedication

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

\* Hymn 145 "What Child Is This"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude "Go, Tell it on the Mountain" arr. A.D. Miller

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

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\* 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
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Grace Farrell
Advent Wreath	The Farrell Family
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.

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.

**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, Jason, Bobby, Craig K., Gary K., Phil, the Garnecki family, Tucker, Frank, Cheryl, Kathy, Tim, Wayne, Ray, Caleb, Jon.

Our Wednesday evening programs will take a break through the holiday season. We will resume our studies and rehearsals on January 8, 2025.

**The Mobile Food Pantry** will distribute food again on **January 9**. Pre-registration is required. Contact [fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com) or church office at 570-586-6306.

**Give A Gift to a Stranger** mission project concludes today. If you haven't returned the gift with tag from the tree, please do so as soon as possible.

**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.**

**Next week**, you may want to call before you stop by because the church staff will be visiting family members, catching up on sleep, or simply taking some breathing room after a very busy month.

**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.

**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](mailto: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 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- Following the anthem, Children's Bible Time
- 3 p.m., Messiah Sing-along, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Scranton

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24

- 12 noon, Church Office closes.
- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111

Wednesday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thursday, December 26

8:30 a.m., Church Office is open

Sunday, December 29

10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online

Tuesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve

- 12 Noon, Church office closes

Wednesday, January 1 – Happy New Year

- Church Office is closed.

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### **Christmas Eve, December 24**

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas for Children and Families
- 8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols with the Adult Choir
- 11:00 p.m. Jazz Christmas Service with the Lord's Supper and the Presbybop Quartet

All worship services will be live-streamed (and recorded) on our YouTube page. Visit [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)