



... for my
eyes have
seen your
salvation,...

Luke 2:30, NRSV

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

10:00 a.m.

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

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music: Three Christmas carols, first verses only

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Glory to God in the highest!

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest!

* Hymn 143 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth,

in Jesus Christ you came among us

as light shining in darkness.

We confess that we have not welcomed the light,

or trusted good news to be good.

We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,

expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,

so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,

and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

* Response (to 143)

Come and worship! Come and worship!

Worship Christ, the newborn king.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (OT, p. 692)

Hymn 146 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Psalter: Psalm 148 (Hymnal 17)

Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17 (NT, p. 201)

Hymn 112 “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:23-34 (NT, p. 59)

Sermon: “A Sense of Destiny”

Series: Luke's Christmas Carols

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

* Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed (Hymnal, p. 34)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

- Offering
- Offertory
- * Doxology
- * Dedication of the Christmas Joy Offering

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn 136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Postlude

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

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- * All who are able shall stand.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Shirley McLaughlin, wife and mother, by
Jim McLaughlin and Jeff McLaughlin.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Pianist	Nathaniel Worrell
Liturgist	Laura Worrell
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 or church office at 570-586-6306.

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. 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 29 First Sunday of Christmas

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

Tuesday, December 31

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

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thursday, January 2

- 8:30, Men's Breakfast, Room 206

Sunday, January 5, 2025 Second Sunday of Christmas

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- Following "A time with Children," Bible Time

Looking ahead:

- The January **Presbyter mailing** will be **Wednesday, January 8**, at 9 a.m. in room 206.