

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Prelude on Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" arr. Wold

Call to Worship

Jesus says, "I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

* Hymn 96 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

we confess that we do not walk in your light.

We hurt and destroy one another

and neglect the poor and hungry.

We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Awaken us to your Word,

so that we may be ready to welcome you with joy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Two candles shine as light breaks through the cracks
and God's dream for the world is planted within our hearts.

Vision awakens in us. There is a spark to brighten the way.

Watching and waiting, we prepare room for Christ to come.

Christ is coming to make all things new. We watch for the light!

Response (Hymnal 350)

**Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for the time is drawing nigh.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12 (NT p. 2)

A Time with Children

Anthem

Second Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 (OT p. 640)

Sermon: "The Promise of Fairness"

Sermon series: What God Promises the World

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 77 "Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old"

* Affirmation of Faith

from the Belhar Confession

We believe that God has entrusted the church

with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.

We believe the church is called to be

the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

We believe that the church is called blessed

because it is a peacemaker.

We believe that the church is witness both, by word and by deed

to the new heaven and the new earth

in which righteousness dwells.

Offering
Offertory

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

arr. Cassler

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you may drink the cup as you are served.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 384 "Soon and Very Soon"

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Amen 601

* Postlude On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry arr. Archer

*During Advent, we invite you to remain seated until the Postlude is complete,
as a way to meditate upon the meaning of the season.*

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given by Betty and Don Keen to the
glory of God and in honor of everyone celebrating a birthday in December.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor

Director of Music

Organist

Liturgist

Ushers

Welcomer

Advent Candle

Tabbi, Tony and Ariana Scandle

Communion Servers

Beverly Bright, Kim Barrows,
Judy Cutler, Janet Stansbury, Chris Norton

Rev. William G. Carter

Frank Jones

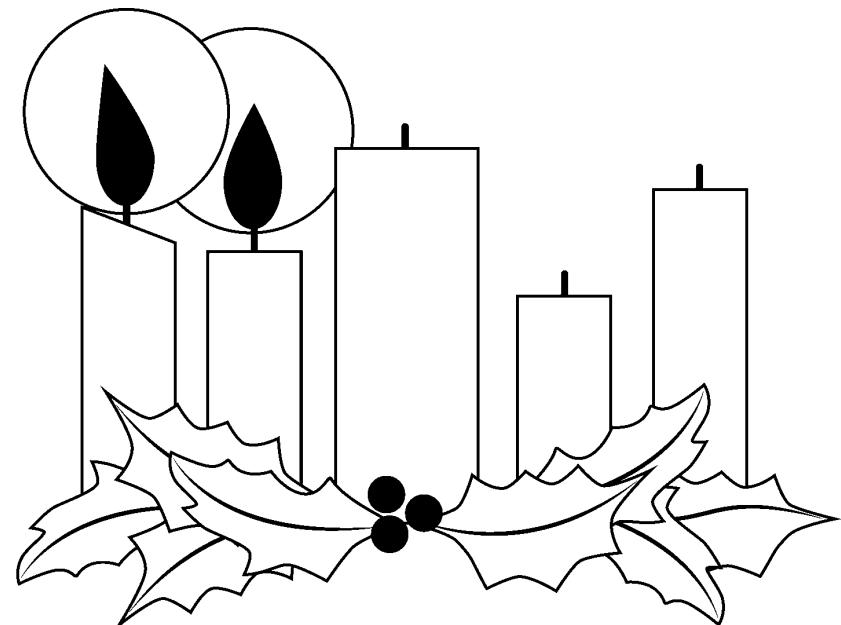
Kay Ten Eyck

Robin Pinches

Betty Keen

Mary Parry

We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.



SECOND SUNDAY OF Advent

First Presbyterian Church

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411

570/586-6306

www.fpccs.org

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on

him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

