

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

10:00 a.m.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Smith, Hustad  
*Beverly Bright, piano; Kay Ten Eyck, organ*

Call to Worship

Jesus says, "I am coming soon."

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

Look! The young woman is with child;

**She will call him Emmanuel, God with us.**

\* Hymn 88 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"  
*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 Four candles shine as God's purpose is revealed in the Word made flesh.

***Love 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: Isaiah 7:10-16 (OT p. 636)

Psalter: Psalm 80 (Hymnal 355)

A Time with Children

Anthem "Veni Emmanuel" arr. Brian Childers

Second Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25 (NT p. 1)

Sermon: "The Promise of Presence" Rev. Carter

*Sermon series: What God Promises the World*

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn 145 "What Child Is This"

\* 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.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

“Cradle Song”

arr. Lau

\* Doxology (606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn 119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Benediction Response

\* Postlude “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” arr. Schaffner

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

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\* All who are able shall stand.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor

Rev. William G. Carter

Director of Music

Frank Jones

Director of Bell Choir

Richard Cochrane

Organist

Kay Ten Eyck

Liturgist

Tabbi Miller-Scandle

Advent Candle

Janet Dobson, Mark, Heather,

Tyler, Amber and Zach Kusma

Ushers

Betty Keen and Gwynne Gilbert

Welcomer

John Conklin

*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*

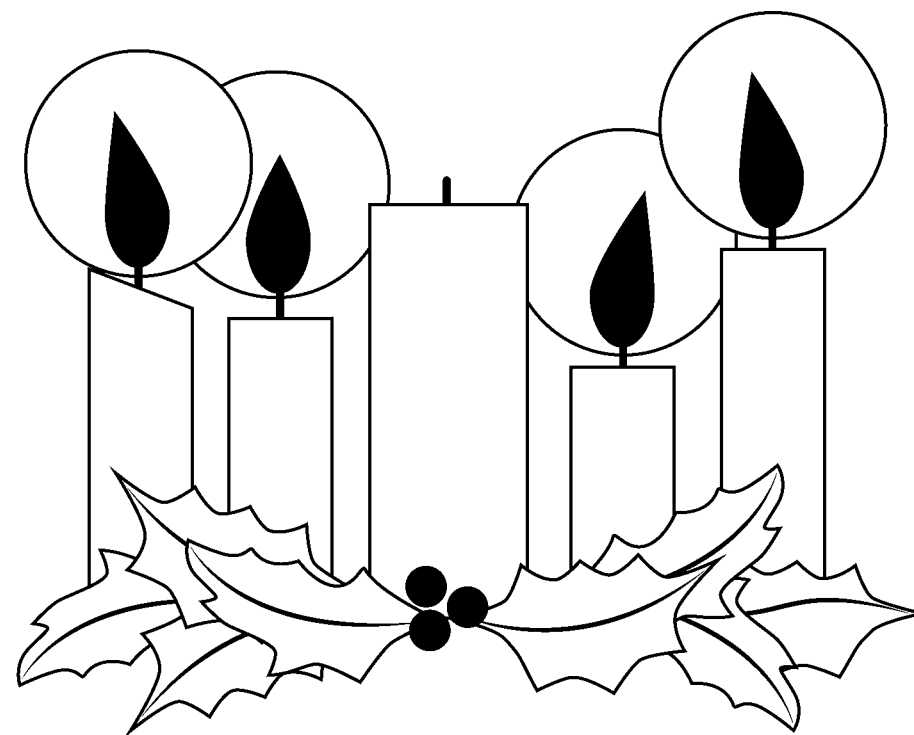
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**300 School Street**

**Clarks Summit, PA 18411**

**570/586-6306**

[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)



FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

### ***Isaiah 7:10-16***

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

### ***Matthew 1:18-25***

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.