

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude "Theme and Variations on Savior of the Nations, Come"
arr. Peter Crisafulli



Call to Worship

Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

Heaven and earth will pass away,

but the word of God endures forever.

* 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

God of the future,

you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.

We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,

for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.

We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,

abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,

and to seek things that will endure

when Christ comes to judge the world.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;

the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent Response

***A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;
a candle of Hope in the dark winter night.***

***While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky
our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.***

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (OT, p. 738)

Psalter: Psalm 25 (Hymnal 420)

A Time with Children

Anthem

“The Yearning”

Courtney/Boersma

Second Lesson: Luke 21:25-36 (NT, p. 85)

Sermon: “When Heaven is Shaken”

Rev. Carter

Advent/Christmas Series: The End of the World As We Know It

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 384

“Soon and Very Soon”

* Affirmation of Faith: Declaration of Faith (PCUS)

All things will be renewed in Christ.

In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation

he has already begun and will surely finish.

We do not know when the final day will come.

In our time we see only broken and scattered signs

that the renewal of all things is under way.

We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering

in the world, the church, or our own lives.

But we see Jesus as Lord.

As he stands at the center of our history,

we are confident he will stand at its end.

He will judge all people and nations.

Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation.

There will be no more tears or pain.

All things will be made new.

The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected.

Offering

Offertory

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

arr. Robert Powell

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Response (to 88)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* Postlude

“The King Shall Come”

arr. Theodore Beck

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

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers have been given to the Glory of God by Judy Cutler in loving memory of her mother, Joan Bojman, who would have turned 99 years of age today.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Nathaniel Worrell
Advent Candlelighters	Katie Carter, Leelah Farrell

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

Church Family Announcements

Thank you for joining us for Worship. We worship every Sunday in two ways!

- Promise to wear a face mask? No covid-related symptoms for the past 14 days? Willing to have your temperature taken at the door? **Join us in person at 10:00 am.** (Reservations are no longer necessary.)
- **Tune in online** for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

Our Session requires masks for all worship services, meetings, and group events in the church building. Temperature checks will continue at church gatherings, and social distancing will be encouraged. We believe in the effectiveness of the covid-19 vaccinations and urge everybody to get vaccinated against covid-19.

If all of us can choose restraint and pursue public health, we have a better chance for stopping the spread of the virus and its variants. In the words of St. Paul, "Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:13-14)

Advent Bags are available in the hallway for our church families. Some bags are for families with children, while others are for households without children. They contain an Advent calendar, devotions, activity suggestions, supplies for a craft, and more. Bags have been prepared by our C.E. committee. Please, help yourself to one.

Thank you for your strong financial support! The 2022 program budget will soon be finalized. Please return pledge cards to the church office as soon as possible.

Our sanctuary is open for prayer whenever the building is open.

Adults, please join us on the following Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 for an Advent study called **A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas**. We anticipate you will be able to participate both in-person and online. Meets in room 206.

Adult Choir members, plan to be back here on Wednesday, December 1, 7:15-8:15. Students in 9th Grade to adults are welcome. Meets in the sanctuary.

Join us to Decorate! On Friday, December 3 at 12 noon, we will be decorating the church for Advent. Come join us for a light lunch of soup and bread, and a time of fellowship as we beautify the church. Please email Robin Pinches at crpinches@gmail.com if you plan to attend (so we know how much soup to prepare). Hope to see you there!



Holiday Angel Tree: All the tags have been taken from the Pajama Tree. **THANK YOU! Please return** PJ's to the church, wrapped and tagged, by **Monday, December 13.**

There are several pairs of unclaimed glasses on the table in the narthex. Please check to see if any belong to you.

The church is **looking for an Audio-Visual technician**. This part-time position will support the video live-streaming and audio needs for our worship services, and will require between two and five hours each week, mostly on Sundays. Training will be provided. As Frank Jones transitions back to his work as our Director of Music, we are looking for someone who can assist him in the technical needs for our worship services. **[Send a note to Rev. Bill to express an interest](mailto:pastor@fpccs.org)** (pastor@fpccs.org).

"Small Gifts - Big Impact"

As we move closer toward Christmas, the Narthex will be filled with displays inviting you to close the year with a **"gift to a stranger."** In addition to the traditional pajama tree (see above), you can order gifts from Heifer International or our own Presbyterian Giving Catalog, as well as specific gifts to benefit the Uganda Pygmy Ministry or Afghan and Congolese refugee families in Lackawanna County. Candy to benefit the Appalachian Service Project will be available.

Building on the theme of "Small Gifts - Big Impact," we invite you to mark each gift by selecting a colorful paper strip from the basket in the Narthex and placing it into the slotted box there. These symbols of your generosity will be fashioned into paper chains to further decorate the Narthex.

Can you help? We are seeking two groups of ten people who can **volunteer at the CEO/Weinberg NE Regional Food Bank**. Our volunteers (who must be vaccinated) will assemble boxes of food for those in need. One group will work on December 15 from 9 a.m. to noon, and the other group will work on December 17. Want to help? Contact Diane Scheuer.

Meetings this week

Sunday, November 28	First Sunday of Advent		
	10 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11 a.m.	“Small Gifts – Big Impact”	Narthex
	11:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class	Room 206
Wednesday, December 1	10:30 a.m.	Prayer and Share	Room 209
	6 p.m.	“The Way” Adult class	Room 206
	7:15 p.m.	Adult Choir	
Thursday, December 2	8:30 a.m.	Men’s Breakfast	Room 206
	7 p.m.	Building and Grounds	Room 209
	7 p.m.	Christian Ed.	Room 206
	7 p.m.	Worship, Music, Arts	Zoom
	7 p.m.	AlAnon	Fellowship Hall
Friday, December 3	Noon	Lunch and Christmas Decorating	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 5	Second Sunday of Advent		
	10 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11 a.m.	Advent Program	Fellowship Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class	Room 206

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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.**

