



**Second Sunday  
of Advent**

**First Presbyterian Church**

Service for the Lord's Day  
Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, 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

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

arr. Wilbur Held

Call to Worship

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
***make straight in the desert a highway for our God.***

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

***Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed. All people shall see it together."***

\* Hymn 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

*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 candle of Peace;***

***a candle to signal that conflict must cease.***

***For Jesus is coming to show us the way;***

***a message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.***

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4 (OT, p. 889)

A Time with Children

Anthem

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. John Behnke

Second Lesson: Luke 3:1-6 (NT, p. 60)

Sermon: “A Word in the Wilderness”

Rev. Carter

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

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn 96

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

\* Affirmation of Faith: Declaration of Faith (PCUS)

***In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus***

***God has already demonstrated his judging and saving work.***

***We are warned that rejecting God's love  
and not caring for others whom God loves***

***results in eternal separation from him and them.***

***Yet we are also told that God loves the whole world  
and wills the salvation of all humankind in Christ.***

***We live in tension between God's warnings and promises.***

***Knowing the righteous judgment of God in Christ,  
we urge all people to be reconciled to God,  
not exempting ourselves from the warnings.***

***Constrained by God's love in Christ, we have good hope for all people,  
not exempting the most unlikely from the promises.***

***Judgment belongs to God and not to us.***

***We are sure that God's future for every person will be both merciful and just.***

A Minute for the FPCCS Endowment

Offering

Offertory

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

arr. John Behnke

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Hymnal, p. 8)

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.***

Prayers of the People

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

- \* Hymn 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"
- \* Charge and Benediction
- \* Congregational Response (to 88)

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

- \* Postlude "Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland" arr. Charles Callahan

*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*** this morning have been given to the glory of God in loving memory of Willard and Frances Wollen Bright by Beverly Bright.

## **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bell Choir	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Tabbi Miller-Scandle
Advent Candlelighter	Jan and Jim Thyren

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

## **Church Family Announcements**

**You are invited to the Advent Event today immediately following worship.** Come downstairs to Fellowship Hall and enjoy food and fellowship as we celebrate the season with learning and fun for all ages.

**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)

**A few Advent Bags** remain 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 8, 15, and 22 at 6 p.m. 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 rehearsals** continue on Wednesdays in December, 7:15-8:15 p.m. Students in 9th Grade to adults are welcome. Meets in the sanctuary.



**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.**

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. This mission project continues through December 19.

Due to high demand, there will be **an extra "My Brother's Keeper" Quilting session on Tuesday, December 7 at 10 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall.

**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 December 15, 9 a.m. to noon, and the other group will work December 17, 9 a.m.-noon. Want to help? Contact Diane Scheuer.

### Meetings this week

Sunday, December 5	Second Sunday of Advent		
	10 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11 a.m.	“Small Gifts – Big Impact”	Narthex
	11 a.m.	Advent Program	Fellowship Hall
	4 p.m.	Recital	Sanctuary
Monday, December 6	11 a.m.	Friends of Naomi	Fellowship Hall
	6 p.m.	Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, December 7	10 a.m.	MBKQuilters	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m.	Rehearsal	Sanctuary
		Mission and Justice	Room 206
Wednesday, December 8	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 9	7 p.m.	AlAnon	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m.	Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Saturday, December 11	2 p.m.	Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 12	Third Sunday of Advent		
	10 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11 a.m.	“Small Gifts – Big Impact”	Narthex
	11:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class	Room 206

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.**



**Looking Ahead:**

**December 15 & 17**, 9 a.m. – Volunteers will work at Weinberg Food Bank

**December 21**, 7 p.m. – Blue Christmas Service in the sanctuary

**December 24**, 4 p.m., 8 p.m., 11 p.m. – Christmas Eve Services in the sanctuary

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