

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 19, 2021

10:00 a.m.

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all, 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

"One Star"

Ariana Billiot and Connie Weiss

Cheryl Rogers

Call to Worship

Look! The young woman is with child;

she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.

The mystery of the ages is now revealed.

To God be the glory forever!

* 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 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 Love;

a candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;

for Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5 (OT, p. 865)

Psalter: Luke 1:46-55 (Hymnal 99)

A Time with Children

Anthem

"Amid the Cold of Winter"

arr. Bret Rhoades

Second Lesson: Luke 1:39-45 (NT, p. 57)

Sermon: "Insignificance, Redeemed"

Rev. Carter

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

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 121

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

* Affirmation of Faith: Declaration of Faith (PCUS)

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God kept his promises.

All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ.

But the work of God in Christ is not over.

God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen.

The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence

that supports us when lesser hopes fail us.

In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth,

certainty of victory over death,

assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death.

This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.

Minute for the Christmas Joy Offering

Offering

Offertory

"Ding, Dong! Merrily on High"

arr. Robert Lau

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 145

"What Child Is This"

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Response (to 88)

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

* Postlude

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

arr. Mary McDonald

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

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given to the Glory of God in loving memory of our parents by Al and Debbie Traettino.

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	David Naeher
Advent Candlelighters	Bill and Grace Farrell



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

**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)

Thank you for your strong financial support for 2021! The church financial books will close on December 31. For proper accounting of your contribution, please send any 2021 offerings to the church prior to that date.

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

Small Gifts - Big Impact: Today is the final opportunity to purchase gifts or donate support to ASP, Heifer International, Presbyterian Giving Catalog, Uganda Pygmy Ministry or local Afghan and Congolese refuge families. Thank you for your generous gifts that benefit others!

Adults, please join us on Wednesday, December 22, 6 p.m., for the final Advent lesson of **A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas**. You will be able to participate both in-person and online. Meets in room 206.

Three different worship services will take place on Christmas Eve, all in-person and live-streamed.

Family Service at 4:00 p.m. We invite all the young-at-heart to the sanctuary for a spirited and joyful celebration of Jesus' birth. This will be a simple service to get to the heart of Christmas. We will sing favorite carols, hear a creative message for all ages, and light candles for "Silent Night."

Lessons and Carols at 8:00 p.m. This will be the "Singing Service," based on the famed Christmas Eve service at King's College Chapel, University of Cambridge. Tune up your vocal cords and join us as we sing nine carols to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Christmas Eve Jazz Communion at 11:00 p.m. The Presbybop Christmas Eve Band will ignite the late night air with passion and joy. This informal communion service always has a touch of the unpredictable! And we have welcomed the dazed shepherds who wander in from the local fields, claiming they heard angels.

Office hours for the holidays: The church office will be closed from Friday, December 24, noon through the morning of Tuesday, December 28; and Friday, December 31, noon until the morning of Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

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).

Meetings this week

Sunday, December 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
	10 a.m. Worship	Sanctuary
	11 a.m. "Small Gifts – Big Impact" Concludes today	
	11:15 a.m. Confirmation Class	Room 206
	6:30 p.m. Recital	Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 21	7 p.m. – Blue Christmas Service	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 22	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 23	7 p.m. AlAnon	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m. Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, December 24	12 noon Church Office Closes	
	4 p.m. Christmas Eve for Families	Sanctuary
	8 p.m. Traditional Lessons and Carols Service	Sanctuary
	11 p.m. Christmas Eve Jazz Communion	Sanctuary
Saturday, December 25	Christmas Day!	
Sunday, December 26	First Sunday of Christmas	
	10 a.m. Worship	Sanctuary

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.**



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