



First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

10:00 a.m.

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

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music
Concerns of the Church
Prelude

Call to Worship

from Isaiah 2:1-5

In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains;

All the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up
to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

***For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.***

* Hymn 83 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
 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

Advent Response (see insert for music)

***When all on earth have cause to mourn, God sends Creation's spark.
Love shakes us from our slumber when the skies have all gone dark.
For hope is born among us as Christ brings light and life.
The dawn of grace shall set us free from all our pain and strife.***

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 24:36-44 (NT, p. 26)

Psalter: Psalm 122 (OT, p. 571)

Children's Time

Anthem “Awake! Awake! Salvation Comes” Caldara

Epistle Lesson: Romans 13:11-14 (NT, p. 162)

Sermon: “Staying Awake for Christmas” Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 107 “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

* Affirmation of Faith: Declaration of Faith (PCUS)

***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.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

- Offering
- Offertory
- * Doxology (606)
- * Prayer of Thanksgiving

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1, 2, 6, 7)
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Congregational Response (91)
 Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel! (repeat)

- * Postlude

*All are invited to remain seated to listen to the postlude.
If you are leaving before it is finished, please do so quietly.*

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- * All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given by the Abington Heights Interact Club in thanks and appreciation to the First Presbyterian Church for the use of the church, and help from its volunteers in supporting the club's Global Thanksgiving dinner event for local refugees and immigrants.

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

Looking Ahead to Advent and Christmas

- **Advent bags** for our households will be available from the Christian Education committee by November 20.
- An Advent **devotional booklet** (in print and on the website as a PDF) will feature the “best of” the reflections from the past five years. Available November 20.
- Our **Give a Gift to a Stranger mission program** begins on the first Sunday in Advent, November 27.
- On **Wednesday evenings**, our 6:00 p.m. Adult Study will be called “Advent in Narnia,” based on the C.S. Lewis book, “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.” It will begin on November 30.
- An **intergenerational Advent program** will take place on Sunday, December 4, following worship.
- The C.E. committee will hold a **Parent’s Night Out**, Friday, December 9, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Register on our website by December 2.
- **Brass Concert** by the Ringgold Band on Friday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Blue Christmas Service** will be held in person and broadcast online on Tuesday, December 20, 7:00 pm.
- **On Christmas Eve**, there will be a simple Christmas pageant at 4:00 p.m., a choral Lessons and Carols at 8:00 p.m., and a Jazz Communion at 11:00 p.m. All will be in person and broadcast online.
- Worship will be held on **Christmas Day** and **New Year’s Day** at 10:00 a.m. Both are Sundays.
- An **intergenerational lunch/event on the theme of Baptism** will be held after worship on Sunday, January 8.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Pianist	Nathaniel Worrell
Liturgist	John Weiss
Ushers	Erika Adams, Diane Pope-Albright
Advent Candlelighters	The Shane Family

Church Family Announcements

Our congregation worships God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.

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

- **Join us in person at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tune in online** for our service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

Large-print bulletins can be found at the rear of the sanctuary. Ask an usher for assistance.

The Nursery is open Sunday mornings from 9:40-11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger in room 208. The nursery is staffed by Heather Lyons.

Tell us your prayer concerns: Prayer Request Cards are available in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn. Please pray for: Barbara, Hall, Barry, Shirley, Karen, Mike, Caleb, Jim, Sandy, Nancy, Ellen, Susannah, Janice, Kate, the Hares family, the Fritz family, Leonard, Janet, June, Janet, Donna, Bailey Family, Maura.

Plastic (grocery store) bags are needed: MBK is making plastic mats from plastic grocery bags. It takes 600-700 clean plastic bags to make a single 3' x 6' mat, so we need LOTS of them. Please bring your extra bags to Church; there is a tub in the Narthex for them. Thank you!!

Care packages for college students: We want to send care packages to our college and graduate students. Know of anybody who would enjoy receiving one? Contact Grace Farrell (glee1124@yahoo.com or 570-586-7174) who is coordinating the project for the Deacons. Be sure to include the student's address!

Can you help?

We are seeking volunteers to replenish our committees and assist with brief but important tasks around the church.

- Can you assist with serving meals at one of our funeral luncheons? Let our Deacons know.
- Interested in volunteering in the office on a regular weekday morning? Notify Nancy Owens.
- Can you serve on the Christian Education and Growth committee? Let Jana know.
- Could you serve on the Worship, Music, and Arts committee, or on the Arts planning team? Tell Jan Thyren or Robin Pinches of your interest.

Thanks for considering this invitation. A church like ours depends on volunteers!

The PJ Tree is here, and all of the tags have been taken. Thank you!

Please purchase the pajamas, wrap and label them, and return to the church by Sunday, December 11. Don't add anything; all the children are to receive the same gift.

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.

Advent Program



Sunday, December 4, after worship

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. Following worship next Sunday (December 4) come celebrate the season with learning and fun for all ages. Meal provided.

Advent Bags are available on the table in the hall between Rev. Carter's and Jana's offices. Please take one for your household.

Advent Devotional Booklets, prepared from "the best of" the reflections of the last 5 years, are available on the table in the narthex and online

This Week at a Glance

Today **First Sunday of Advent**

10 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary and online

Wednesday, November 30

- **9 a.m.**, Presbyter mailing, Room 206
- **10:30 a.m.**, Prayer and Share, Room 209
- **6 p.m.**, Adult Bible Study, Room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Adult Choir, Sanctuary
- **8 p.m.**, Bell Choir, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 1

- **8:30 a.m.**, Men's Breakfast, Room 206
- **5 p.m.**, Worship, Music, Arts, Room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Christian Education, Room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Building and Grounds

Sunday, December 4 **Second Sunday of Advent**

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online
- Advent Program, following worship, Fellowship Hall
- **2 p.m.**, recital, Sanctuary

Matthew 24:36-44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.