



**PRODUCE FRUIT
IN KEEPING WITH
REPENTANCE.**
MATTHEW 3:8, NIV

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 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 "Toccata on Veni, Emmanuel" arr. David Pickering

Call to Worship

Isaiah 11:1, 10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;

Nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

* Hymn 106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us.

We are not ready for your coming.

We live in sin, as though there were no justice.

We live in fear, as though there were no grace.

Forgive us, Lord.

Show us your mercy and steadfast love.

**Lead us in your truth and teach us your paths,
for you are the God of our salvation.**

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Advent Response (see insert for music)

**The stirring voice of one so true calls human hearts to turn.
The half-truths that confound our souls just like the chaff shall burn.
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 3:1-12 (NT, p. 2)

Psalter: Psalm 72 (Hymnal 149)

v. 1 – soloist, v. 2 – choir, vv. 3-4 - all

A Time with Children

Anthem

“Waiting for a King”

Joseph Martin

Epistle Lesson: Romans 15:4-13 (NT, p. 163)

Sermon: “Hoping for Christmas”

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 96

“On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry”

* Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith, section 3 (Hymnal, p. 37)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father...

Offering

Offertory

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

arr. Jason Payne

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you may drink the cup as you are served.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Greet You"

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Response (91)

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel! (repeat)

* Postlude "Savior of the Nations, Come" arr. Hans-Dieter Karras

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

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given to the glory of God by
Karen White in memory of loved ones.

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	Debbie Miller
Advent Candlelighting Family	Barry and Cherie Shepherd

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

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.

Advent Program: Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. Following worship today (December 4), come celebrate the season with learning and fun for all ages downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Meal provided.

Advent Bags and Devotional Booklets are available on the table Please take one of each for your household.

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, Leonard, Janet, June, Janet, Donna, Bailey Family, Maura, Chuck, Jane, Morse.

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!

The PJ Tree has been repurposed! While the tags for pajamas have been taken (*Return by December 11.* Thank you!) **new request tags** have been hung on the tree that will help **local refugee families.** Please purchase the requested item, wrap and label it, and return to the church by Sunday, December 18. Thank you!

You are invited to “roll up your sleeves” and enter the world of sanctuary decorating. **This Thursday, December 8,** 10 a.m., members of the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee will be decorating the church. What fun it will be to have a group of church friends here to help.

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!

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.



This Week at a Glance

Today **Second Sunday of Advent**

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the Sanctuary and online
- **11:15 a.m.**, Advent Program, Fellowship Hall
- **2 p.m.**, recital, Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 6

- **7 p.m.**, Mission and Justice, Room 206

Wednesday, December 7

- **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 8

- **10 a.m.**, Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas

Friday, December 9

- **5:30 p.m.**, Parents Night Out, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 11 Third Sunday of Advent

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online
- **11:15 a.m.**, Session Meeting, Room 206

Be sure to check upcoming events on the back page.

Advent and Christmas

At First Presbyterian Church

- **Advent bags** are available in the upstairs hallway from the Christian Education Committee. Please help yourself to one.
- An Advent **devotional booklet** is available (in print and on our website as a PDF) features the “best of” the reflections from the past five years.
- An **intergenerational Advent program** will take place on Sunday, December 4, following worship.
- Our **Give a Gift to a Stranger mission program** continues on Sundays in Advent.
- 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 continue on December 7, 14 and 21.
- 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 and Sing-A-Long** by the Ringgold Band is set for 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.

300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411

www.fpccs.org

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,

and sing praises to your name';

and again he says,

'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

and again,

'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him';
and again Isaiah says,
'The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Materials for the Liturgist

Call to Confession

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean;
but there is mercy for those
who call on the name of the Lord.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

[Prayer of Confession is printed in the bulletin]

Assurance of Pardon

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.
Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace

Since God has made peace with us, let us live in peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you all.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**