

First Presbyterian Church of Hawley

“Come to Grow in Love, Spirit, and Faith”



December 22, 2024

10 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Presbyterian Church
815 Church Street, Hawley, PA 18428
570-226-4835
Web: fpchawley.org

“And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.”

Micah 5:4

Please take time to prepare for worship through meditation and prayer during the prelude. As the prelude begins, quiet your voice and soul. With music and prayer let us move from “getting to church” to “being the church” as we worship together.

OPENING PRAYER:

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. Help us to follow you, Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. **Amen.**

PRELUDE:

The Christmas Rose
Adele Harrison, organ

arr. G. Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rev. Mark Juengel

INTROIT:

Savior of the Nations, Come
Chance Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Nancy Vignau

Leader: All around us are signs of the significance of the season.

People: The beauty of the room in which we worship subtly whispers a hint of glory.

Leader: Majestic music, choral declarations of the words of angels, and the reading of a sacred text call to mind the message of the ages.

People: Burning candles reiterate the truth of in-breaking light.

Leader: Everything seems to be in a state of readiness for Christ to come.

People: But, what about our hearts?

Leader: What good are the sights and sounds, the beauty and lights, if Christ is not welcome in our hearts?

All: Today, right now, God, lead us into an experience of worship that pleases you and makes our hearts ready to receive the Christ. May he be born in us.

*Hymn #121:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE:

Pat Gemeinhardt, Pat Schmidt & Rebecca Lee

All: Loving God, thank you for expressing your love through the life of Jesus, through our lives, and the lives of those around us. Help us to remember that your love will never end. Amen.

*HYMN #88:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

verse 1-4

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel Shall come to you, O Israel! (cont'd.)

O come, O bright and morning star, and bring us comfort from afar! Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

PRAYOR OF CONFESSION:

Nancy Vignau

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen

KYRIE: Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Nancy Vignau

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news; In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Come Lord Jesus Come, Amen.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE- HYMN #132:**

verse 3

"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"
Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Rev. Mark Juengel

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Nancy Vignau

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 80:1-7 Nancy Vignau
SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:2-5 Rev. Mark Juengel
MUSIC MEDITATION: *O Come, Lord Jesus, Come* Angerman
Chancel Choir

TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS

SERMON: "I Could Almost Touch Heaven" Rev. Mark Juengel
HYMN #129: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

INVITATION TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY: *The People that Walked in Darkness* Handel
Erik Tofte, bass
Matthew Rupcich, piano

*DOXOLOGY, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER - (using debts and debtors)

*HYMN #123: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Verses 1,3 & 5

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* Hayes (arr. Wagner)
Adele Harrison, organ

*Please stand if you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please sign the **Friendship Attendance Pad** at the end of the pews. This allows the church to be in touch with you and for you to greet your neighbor by name during the passing of peace during the service.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING - We will receive this special offering **Today, December 22nd** during the worship service. Please place your offering on the collection plate.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES - **Tuesday, December 24th at 7pm.** Please remember *to pick up your flowers immediately after Christmas Eve Service.*

ECUMENICAL SERVICE - **Sunday, December 29 at 11:00 AM.** - First Presbyterian Church is joining the other churches of our community for worship on *Sunday, December 29 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 401 Church Street.* **THIS MEANS WE WON'T HAVE WORSHIP HERE AT FPCH.**

Service begins at 11:00 AM - but get there early because seating will be tight.

Parking - behind Hawley Hub, at United Methodist Church, or in the street.

Handicap Access - Outside Entrance Door on Maple Street close to Church Street. There will be an elevator operator to help you.

Fellowship - to follow the service. If you would like to bring a treat to share it would be appreciated.

NEWSLETTER - Our next monthly Newsletter will be in **January 2025.** Newsletter articles need to be turned into the office by **Wednesday, January 15th.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Please sign up in the vestibule to be an **Usher** and to host **Coffee Hour** and **Good News Café.** For **Liturgists** see **Adele Harrison** and to help with **Communion** see **Ann Marie Grilk.**

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS - The office will be closed **Wednesday, December 25th thru December 31st** in observance of the Christmas holiday and once again **on Wednesday, January 1st** in observance of New Year's Day. *The Office will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2025 from 9:00am-1:00pm.*

YEAR END GIVING – Books close on **December 31st.** In interested in making an Estimate of Giving, pages are on the Narthex table.

YEAR-END REPORTS ARE DUE.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Monday, December 23rd

11:00am: Small Group Monday (**Cancelled**)
12:00pm: AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 24th

10:00am: Handbell Choir
11:00am: Chancel Choir
7pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
8:00pm: NA

Wednesday, December 25th

Office Closed
Christmas/Hanukkah
12:00pm: AA Meeting
5pm-8pm: Cub Scouts
6:30pm: Bible Study (**Cancelled**)

Thursday, December 26th

Office Closed
Kwanzaa
6:30pm: Bible Study (**Cancelled**)

Saturday, December 28th

11:30am: **Good News Café (Cancelled)**

Sunday, December 29th

11:00am: **Community Worship Service**
St. Paul's Lutheran Church located at 401 Church Street, Hawley

Liturgist Schedule:

12/22: Nancy Vignau
12/24: Jill Juengel
12/29: Jim Mould, Patrick Field
& Kathy Smith
Community Worship Service
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Usher Schedule:

12/22: Cliff & Beth Crowley
12/24: TBD - (Christmas Eve)
12/29: *N/A*
Community Worship Service - St. Paul's Lutheran Church

January 2025 Communion

(January 5th)
Set Up & Clean Up:
Don MacArthur
Servers: Don MacArthur,
Maria MacArthur,
Pat Gemeinhardt,
Kathy Smith &
Karen Rockafellow

JOYS and CONCERNS FOR WEEK OF 12/22/2024

- *Prayers for Kenny.
- *Prayers for Cindy, sister of Beth C
- *Prayers for Sue C., 's granddaughter.
- *Prayers for Carol C. who is having some physical difficulties.
- *Prayers for Kevin M.
- *Prayer for Marjorie M. who is recovering at home.
- *Prayers for Tara Dalton, friend of Virginia Romaine, who is battling cancer.
- *Prayers for Pat Broughton who's recovering from surgery.
- *Prayers for April, daughter of Laura, friend of Virginia Romaine.
- *Tom, Father-in-Law of Mark's son.
- *Prayers for Roxanne.
- *Prayers for Chris Leady.
- *Prayers for Christine C.
- *Prayers for Jennifer T., daughter of Ron Dutton who lives in Philly and is battling breast cancer.
- *Prayers for Susan, Pat G.'s sister.
- *Prayers for John E.'s sister-in-law Stacy, who is having cognitive issues with a frontal lobe disease.
- *Prayers for Natalie, Ruth C.'s granddaughter.