

Third Sunday of
ADVENT



*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

You are invited to stand if able
Items in **bold** are congregational responses

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME–

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy

Sharon Zunic

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

Father in heaven, we gather in Your presence and for Your glory. We ask that we might have Your heart and passion for those around us this season, that we might experience You in a new and living way and that our hearts will ponder the deep truth that Advent brings freedom, joy and peace. May my heart, like Mary's, long for You, for Your presence this Advent, and may I, in Your power, take forth care for others during this season of wonder. Amen

SONG:

“Love’s Pure Light”

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate with joyful hearts.

People: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

Leader: We count our blessings and give thanks for God's goodness and grace.

People: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

Leader: We strive to search for the good in neighbors near and far.

People: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

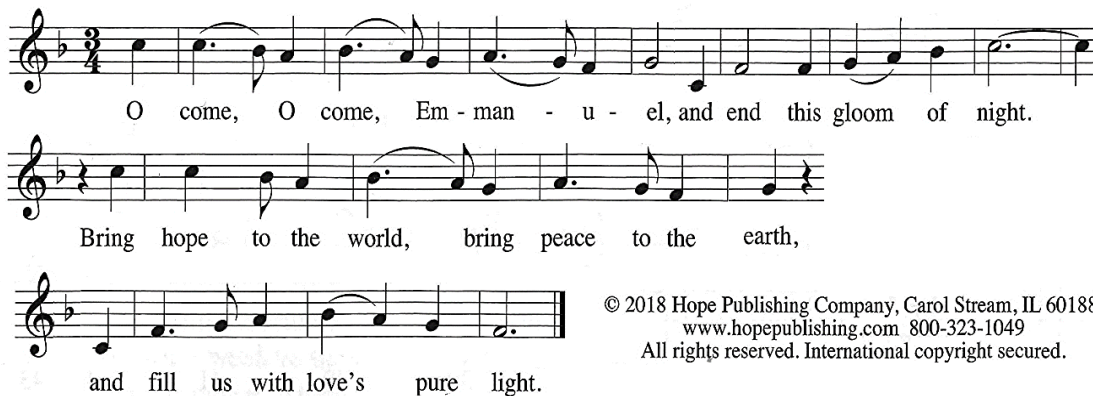
Leader: We remember that God has promised us full and joyful lives.

People: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning we light three candles—the candles of hope, peace, and today, joy. This candle reminds us that we have reason to be joyful, even in the midst of strife. We remember that the angel proclaimed Christ's birth as "Good news of great joy, to all people." We celebrate today with joyful hearts and commit ourselves to spreading that joy to the world around us.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and end this gloom of night.
Bring hope to the world, bring peace to the earth,
and fill us with love's pure light.

© 2018 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049
All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Lord of impending Light, we rejoice in your compassion for us. You send us your light and your healing love so that we may become better representatives of you in this world which cries for justice and peace. Be with us this morning as we gather to hear your word for us. AMEN.

HYMN:

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Blue 28

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

CHORUS

“Spirit of the Living God”

Blue 322

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, long ago you sent Christ to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. You then asked us to go and do the same as your body in Christ. Forgive us, we pray, for we have not continued to share the good news. We have focused on ourselves and neglected to help others. Help us to continue to share the healing and loving words of Christ to all the world and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***KYRIE:** *Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

Hear the good news! Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI:**

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.***

***SHARING THE PEACE:**

May the peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

FIVE-MINUTE FELLOWSHIP—Greet Your Neighbor.

GATHERING CHORUS “The Family of God” **Screen**

**I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God.
I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood.
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
I’m a part of the family, the family of God.**

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Led by Liturgist**

Gracious God, for generations, your Word has brought love and life to your people. Speak to us now; we pray that we may hear, and in hearing, we may be transformed. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 **Liturgist**

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Mary, Did You Know?”
Jessica Phillabaum, Cory Sigler, Pastor Mary Kay

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:39-56 **Pastor**

SERMON: “A Song of Joy” **Pastor**

HYMN: “In the Bleak Midwinter” **Blue 36**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED **Blue p 14**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE THE LORD’S PRAYER

Response: God who answers, hear our prayer

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP **Liturgist**

In this holiday season, we find many demands made upon our time and resources. Yet in worship we are called to remember the One who is the author of all that we are and all that we have. In response to God’s gracious action in our lives, we are called to give an offering to God.

OFFERTORY

Joe Balogh

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God, above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Led by Liturgist

Thank you, God, for all that we have and all that we are. We take these gifts given today and dedicate them ever and only to you.
Amen.

HYMN:

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”

Blue 145

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE: “Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen”

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Jack Tillman from his daughter, Nancy & Mike Komlos.

THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY

The liturgist today is Kay Nelson.

Greeter was Patty Gillon.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers.

Please call the office with prayer needs, updates, and questions
or e-mail the church at.

† Lisa Aten † Kaiden Bane † Nuncio Battista † Dolores Beatty †
Bill Behrens † Joann Bellora † Mary Lou Berish
† Bob & Carol Berish † Carl Boone † Garret Brigs † Frank Britton
† Cameron Burnardza † Joe Burnsworth † Colin † Sally Callaway †
Sally Campbell † Carol Carcella † Milana (Berish) Cerniga †
Chloe Chachaula † Rev. Ian Chikoti † Nancy Craig †
Glenn Crownover † Tena Crutcher † Darla † Rich & Kathy Davies †
Sandy Davis † Carol Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk † Norm
Floyd † Howard Forsyth † Janis Garofalo † Louise Gerber † Glenn
Hart † Sarah Hepple & Baby † Brittany Heckathorn † Wayne Helster †
Frieda Hilman † Patti Huyck † Diane Johnston † Zoey Johnson †
Janet † June Kefover † Donna Kearns † Cameron Kennedy
† Irene Leyda † Mike Lemley † Vivian Grant Lewis † Gordon Lucas
† Ronnie Lynn † Laura Martin † J.T. Mateka † Taylor McGee †
Bruce Merritt † Dean Migliori † Phil Morrow † Lynette Murray
† Betsy Neel † Mary Caroline Nicholas † Jim Palfrey † Scott Palfrey
† Marguerite Patterson † Marge Pawlaski † Nora Pelezar † Kim
Pierce † Helen Pulgino † Kaylee Rabon † Lucille Rapchak † Dennis
Raymer † Dorothy Rogers † Alina Shaw † Linda Shuler † Chris
Sicora † Rose Smarachek † Toi Smith † Walter Smith † Gianna
Smoyer † Candy Sokol † Ginger Thorp † Jerry Tregembo † Sandy
Walters † Joseph Waywood †

**Pray for the safety and protection of First Responders
(police, fire, EMTs), Military Personnel, Medical Personnel,
Caregivers who deplete themselves caring for others,
those affected by senseless violence and war,
and those affected by natural disasters.**

*(If you have a prayer concern or to update the list, please call the office at
724-929-7616 or fill out a prayer card and place in the offering plate)*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Belle Vernon

501 Fayette Avenue, Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

Church Offices: 511 Fayette Avenue

Office Hours: M - F: 9:00 to 1:00

Church Phone: 724- 929-7616

Fax and Fellowship Hall Phone: 724-929-0209

Pastor's Cell Phone: 724-243-2871

Web: www.fpresbv.org **e-mail:** office@fpresbv.org

Pastor:	Mary Kay Glunt	243-2871
Clerk of Session:	Sharon Zunic	929-4463
Church Secretary:	Natalie Brewer	929-7616
Organist:	Joe Balogh	
Chairman of Deacons:	Susan Aten	929-6406
Head Usher:	Bill Callaway	929-5176
Custodian:	Patty Gillon	929-7616
H. O. A:	Linda Aten	929-6406

E L D E R S

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Sharon Zunic Jane Bonari Mary Beth Burkley	Lori Lamberski Carol Tragesser David Burdis	

D E A C O N S

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Marguerite Patterson Dennis Peters Patty Gillon Eileen Kunca	Jessica Phillabaum Dave Neel	Susan Aten Fred Exley June Exley Barb Moskala

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness.

As a Christ-centered church empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek God's plan for each of us and all of us. We welcome everyone to journey with us as we strive to grow in love, faith, trust, and discipleship.

(Adopted October 10, 1998; revised February 2, 2013)

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TODAY: Worship at 10 am (announcements begin at 9:55)

TUESDAY: Food & Fellowship from 11 am- 1 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am (announcements at 9:55)
Christmas Eve Service at 11 pm

Last Sunday's Attendance: 38

Last Sunday's Offering: \$1,942

Thank you for your faithfulness in service and in giving.



To make a onetime gift or to sign up for our online giving program, scan this QR code with your mobile device. All donations are processed through the Presbyterian Foundation and VANCO Giving Services is secure and protected.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 18- Zack Brewer

Anne McCorkle

Eric Zunic

Dec 20- Terri Rubosky

Dec. 24- Bobbi Jo Huebner

Carol Tragesser

Dec. 25- Ken Day

Dec. 27- Ken Amrick

Dec. 31- Brett & Mary Lou Berish

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Worship the newborn King at our annual Christmas Eve service 11 pm on Sunday, December 24th. Please contact the office to sign up to be a greeter and/or a reader. Note that the 24th is also the fourth Sunday of Advent, and we will have worship that morning.

PASTOR LEAVE: Pastor Mary Kay will be out of the office on vacation from December 26-31, and will take study leave January 2-6, 2024. Call the office for emergencies. Also, she will be out on Monday (tomorrow) on vacation/bereavement.

OFFICE CLOSED DATES:

Monday, December 25 – Thursday, December 28th

Monday, January 1 – New Year's Day