

Fourth Sunday of Advent



*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 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

God of Advent, we pray that we are able to say “yes” when you call. We pray that we are able to say “Here I am” to you, O Lord. We pray that we can be your servants. We pray that we can say as Mary said so long ago, “Let it be with me according to your word.” May all that we are glorify you, and may we rejoice in you for you are our God. You are the rock of our salvation. May we focus all our praise and love on you through Jesus your Son. Amen

SONG:

“Love’s Pure Light”

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: During Advent we see God's love for us embodied in our Savior's birth.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Leader: Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Leader: Advent calls us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

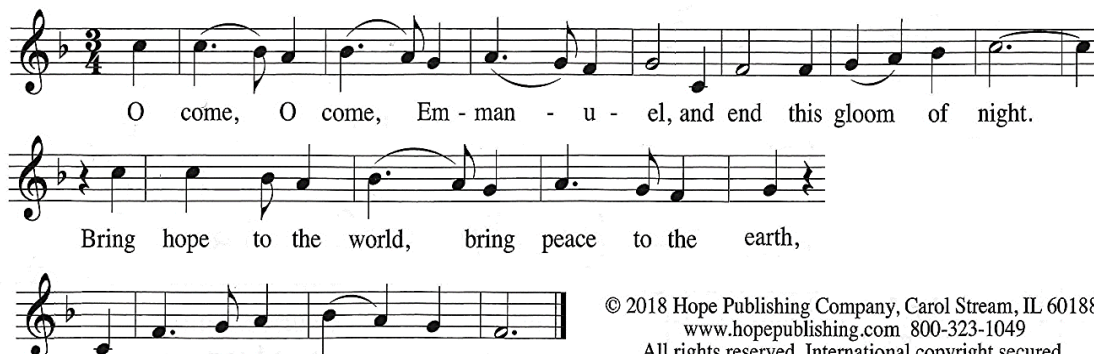
Leader: Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning we light four candles: the candles of hope, peace, joy, and today's candle—love. This candle reminds us that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son, so that who-ever believes in Him should not perish but have life everlasting. Today we celebrate God's gift of love and remember that we have been commanded to love others as God loves 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.

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OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we are reminded that "Love came down at Christmas—love amazing, love divine." You loved the world enough to send your Son, and now it's up to us to love others as you loved us. Remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of infinite, everlasting, pure love. Amen.

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
**Savior God, liberate us from the sins which distort our vision and
disrupt our hearing as we approach your Word. Standing firm in
your love, let us open ourselves to the truth you reveal to us
today. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT: Micah 5:1-5 Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Once in David’s Royal City” Bobbi Jo Huebner

GOSPEL READING: John 3:16-17 Pastor

SERMON: “A Song of Love” Pastor

HYMN: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Blue 44

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

**With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our
tithes and gifts 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

Gracious God, accept these gifts in grateful response for your generosity. May these gifts bring joy to those most in need of Christ's mission and ministry. Amen.

HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Blue 376

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 Rosemary & Harold's 61st wedding anniversary on December 29th given by their family.

THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY

The liturgist today is Kay Nelson.

Greeter was Rosemary Strenske.

Last Sunday's Attendance: 41

Last Sunday's Offering: \$840

Thank you for your faithfulness in service and in giving.

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)