

First Sunday of
ADVENT



*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

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

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME–

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

*We cry in the wilderness. The land we walk is rugged and rough.
We find no straight highways, only deep valleys and high mountains.
Jesus, a light for us and for all nations, grasp us by the hand. Open
the eyes of the blind, O Lord; bring prisoners out from their cells and
from the darkness those whose eyes are blinded. Come to us with
your power and might. Come and comfort your people. Like a
shepherd, gather us as lambs in your arms. Amen.*

SONG: “Love’s Pure Light”

Responsive Litany

Leader: In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.

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

Leader: In this season of Advent, we search for God's truth.

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

Leader: In this season of Advent, we seek God's guidance.

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

Leader: In this season of Advent, we remember God's promise.

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

Candle Lighting

This morning we light the first candle, the candle of hope. This candle reminds us that God's promises give us reason to be filled with hope - hope for unity in a world of division, hope for healing in a world of pain, and hope for peace in a world filled with anger and strife. We remember that Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Love's Pure Light Congregational part

"Gesù Bambino"
Music: Pietro Yon

Words and Arranged by
JOEL RANEY

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.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, G major. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

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OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Gracious God, as we begin our Advent journey, we thank you for the gift of your Son, and for sending hope into a world filled with dread. Help us remember that we are your people and that, because of your promises, we have every reason to be hopeful. Take away our doubt and fear, and remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of hope. Amen.

HYMN:

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

Blue 11

CHORUS

“Spirit of the Living God”

Blue 322

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

You witness our lives, Approaching God. Asked to share the gospel of hope, we place it on our to-do list instead. Given the chance to cry out for justice for others, we fall strangely silent. Invited to pray with joy in every moment, we prefer to grumble about every insignificant thing in our lives. Have mercy on us, God of grace, and prepare our hearts for Your forgiveness to have its way in them. Fill us with Your hope so we might lighten the shadows of others. Help us to join the choirs of children in singing of Your joy. Transform us with that tender mercy who is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

God is our witness: We have spoken of our lives, and God has forgiven every mistake we have made, every hurt we have caused.

We are held in God’s heart, not only on this day, but all the days of our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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**

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

GOSPEL: **Luke 1:67-80** **Liturgist**

SERMON: **“Finding the Voice of Hope”** **Pastor**

HYMN: **“Comfort, Comfort, You My People”** **Blue 3**

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP **Liturgist**

At this moment in our worship, we're invited to share what we have so that others will find the same welcome, and the same joy that we have known. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise. Amen.

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

Lord, you come in this holy season with the simple gift of life itself. You invite us to share from the abundance of our lives, so others might be filled with life, with hope, with love, and with grace. Bless these gifts we offer to you, so they may be used to share the gospel of wholeness and welcome for all. Amen.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: May the God of every mercy be with you.

People: May you also be filled with God's tenderness.

Leader: Lift up your hearts to the One who looks with grace upon us.

People: We open our hearts to the One who comes to us.

Leader: Sing glad songs of praise in this moment.

People: We join our sisters and brothers in joyful thanksgiving.

Anthem

"Come to the Table"

Ben McDonald, Dave Frey, and Ben Glover

Jessica Phillabaum, Cory Sigler, Pastor Mary Kay

Pastor: Chaos could not endure . . . our voices to You:

People: Holy, holy, holy are You, God who melts frozen hearts.

All creation waits for Your Advent once again.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes from on high.

Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response: Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE FOR DON BELCZYK

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: As we draw ever closer . . . mystery we know as faith:

**Christ died, preparing the way for salvation;
Christ was raised through the baptism of the resurrection;
Christ will come, Dawn from on high of every time and place.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

♪ Every time we eat this bread, every time we drink this cup,
we proclaim the death of the Lord, until He comes, until He
comes. ♪

SHARING THE FEAST

*As the elders serve the bread, receive and partake in thankful prayer;
when you receive the cup, please hold it until all are served.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this
sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste
of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out
in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise
and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Blue 2

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE:

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

The flowers on the piano are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Maxine Brownlee's husband.

THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY

Liturgist today is Bobbi Jo Huebner.

Greeter today was Maxine Brownlee.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; First Sunday in Advent
Communion and Coffee Hour

THURSDAY: Food Bank at FMC

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am
Lessons and Carols, 6 pm at St. Sebastian's

Last Sunday's Attendance: 35

Last Sunday's Offering \$612



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 9- Mike Komlos

Dec 10- Scott Marklewicz

Dec 11- Tommy Rodriguez

Dec 13- Janice Jupin

Dec 16- Dennis Lynn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION OFFERING: This month's communion offering goes to our own Helping Hands fund. This fund is used to help individuals experiencing financial need.

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE: Once again this year we will be purchasing gifts for under-privileged children in our community through the Salvation Army. We have a few more tags that you can choose to bless a child at Christmas. All gifts will need to be at the church by Monday, December 10th. We will deliver them to the Salvation Army on Monday, Dec. 11th.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The congregational meeting has been rescheduled to next Sunday, December 10th. Please plan to be there. We will be electing deacons and elders and voting on the pastor's terms of call for 2024. Nominees are listed here.

(HOA) CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: Ladies of the church, join us for our annual Christmas Luncheon this Thursday, December 7th at **1 pm** in the FH. This will be a covered dish luncheon, so bring your favorite dish. We will also have a gift exchange. Each women should bring a gift valued at \$10 to share. To register, contact Donna Sichi or Linda Aten.

SHEPHERD'S VOICE: The Riverview Baptist Church at 405 Main Street, New Eagle will be hosting Shepherd's Voice Christmas Concert this Friday, December 8th at 7 pm. This is open to the public and there is no admission. A love offering will be received.

ROSTRAVER FOOD PANTRY: Donations to Westmoreland Food Bank have been down recently. Anything you can donate to help would be greatly appreciated, especially during this holiday season.

Finding the Voice of Hope

Luke 1:68-79

The angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah in the Temple and _____ that Elizabeth would have a child, but because they were both _____, Zechariah _____.

HOPE COMES WHEN WE AGREE WITH GOD

Zechariah had relied on _____ rather than the angel's words.

We, in our _____ often can't understand God's promises, much less rely on them.

REMEMBERING GOD'S PROMISES

1. God raised up a _____ as He had promised to the _____. (vv 68-71)
2. God promised _____ that they would be rescued from enemies and serve God without _____.
3. God promised that his child (John) would be a _____ to prepare the way of that Savior.

SHARING HOPE WITH OTHERS

1. The _____ will break.
2. The _____ will shine.
3. God will _____ us.

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 † 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 †
Helen Pulgino † Dennis Raymer † Dorothy Rogers † Alina Shaw
† Linda Shuler † Chris Sicora † Rose Smarachek † Toi Smith
† Walter Smith † Gianna Smoyer † 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,
especially those on Maui affected by the fires and winds.**

*(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)