



## *First Presbyterian Church*

300 Market Street ☩ Warren, PA 16365-2360

*Following Christ  
So All May Thrive*

Office Hours: M, 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.; Tu-F 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

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*December 9, 2018*

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## *Second Sunday in Advent*

December 9, 2018

10:00 A.M.

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Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S GRACE

GATHERING MUSIC

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Henry Smart & James Montgomery

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Carol of the Bells*

Traditional Ukrainian Carol

Natalie Dietsch, Piano

INTROIT:

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Plainsong

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (Responsive)

L: There are so many frightening things happening in the world these days! People hurt each other and harm the earth, fighting and stealing and yelling and killing everywhere every day!

**P: We are reminded as we worship this day that there is the possibility of peace even now in our disturbed world, a peace that comes only from God.**

L: Jesus encouraged his disciples with these words, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid."

**P: And so, we claim this peace as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled!**

\*HYMN

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

#104

CALL TO CONFESSION (Leader)

[based on John 1]

In the busyness of our lives, we know that we are people who do not always recognize or welcome the true light that has come into the world. Knowing this about ourselves and knowing that we need this light in order to walk faithfully as God's children in the world, let us confess our sin before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Gracious God, help us see and name all that weighs us down, holds us back, trips us up, and breaks us apart! Having done so, enable us to claim your grace that lifts us up, sets us free, gets us on our feet, and makes us whole! Then, may our lives reflect your glory! Hear us as we ask for your mercy in Jesus' name. Amen.**

TIME FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

WORDS ASSURING US OF GOD'S GRACE (Responsive): [based on John 1]

L: The light of God's love in Jesus Christ shines in our lives yet today!

**P: Jesus, God's only Son, is full of grace and truth!**

L: And from this fullness we receive grace upon grace!

**P: In this grace we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE**

\*RESPONSE

*Glory Be to the Father*

#581

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**P: And also, with you.**

*Please welcome your neighbors, sharing the peace of Christ with them.*

**WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD**

A MOMENT WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

**Holy God, by your Word stir us from doubt to faith, from despair to trust, and from fearfulness to confidence! Shape us by your Spirit as we hope in you, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING****Malachi 3:1-4****(CEB, below)**

Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me; suddenly the Lord whom you are seeking will come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming, says the Lord of heavenly forces. 2 Who can endure the day of his coming? Who can withstand his appearance? He is like the refiner's fire or the cleaner's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. They will belong to the Lord, presenting a righteous offering. 4 The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in ancient days and in former years.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. † **People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM***Every Valley*

John Ness Beck

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING****Luke 3:1-6****(CEB, below)**

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. 4 This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight. 5 Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The crooked will be made straight and the rough places made smooth. 6 All humanity will see God's salvation."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. † **People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON*****Makeovers and Err Removal***

Rev. Rebecca Taylor

**MOMENTS OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION****WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD****JOYS & CONCERNS****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER****(traditional, page 35)**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

*Amen*

B. Dietsch

OFFERING

Offertory

*Keep Your Lamps*

arr. Andre Thomas

\*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*Prayer of Dedication

WORDS AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

(from A Declaration of Faith)

**Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.**

**We recognize in Jesus what God created us to be. He exposes our failure to live as he lived. He demonstrates the new humanity God promises to give us through him.**

\*HYMN

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

#119

\*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Michael Praetorius

POSTLUDE

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

David Paxton

L = Leader

**P = People**

\*indicates that one is invited to stand in body or spirit

Hymnal: # indicates the hymn number in *Glory to God*

Bibles: NIV — *The Holy Bible: New International Version (pew racks)*; CEB — *The Common English Bible*

\*\*\* THE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NEXT WEEK \*\*\*  
**Zephaniah 3:14-17**, Isaiah 12:2-6; Philipians 4:4-7; **Luke 3:7-18**

Questions for Reflection

Imagine that you are in the crowd listening to John the Baptizer. You hear people in the crowd asking him, "What should we do to prepare?" How might John instruct you, or your church, to prepare for the coming of God's reign? Sometimes wealthy people worry that God or the church is requiring them to be poor. What is the difference between being poor and being fair? How do you feel about sharing?

Household Prayer: Morning

God, surely you are my salvation. I begin this day without fear, trusting you, for you are my strength. Help me to meditate all day on the thought that you are rejoicing in me! And keep me keenly aware, as I travel through this day, of ways that I may help others, especially those with special needs. Then bring me home to you at the close of the day. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for the gift of today and for guarding my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus. All that I did and all that I left undone, I now give over to your safekeeping, trusting in your peace that surpasses all understanding. Be my rest as I sleep tonight, and renew me in your love for another day. Amen.

\*\*Taken from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2*. © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**THE TEXTS IN BOLD** will be used in worship next Sunday; please read them during the week and pray that God's spirit will help and guide us all as we encounter God's word!

**OUR STAFF**

Rev. Rebecca Taylor, Pastor  
Barry Dietsch, Director of Music  
Heather Dietsch, Organist  
John Lasher, Percussion

Marilyn Dunkle, Office Manager  
Betsy Griffin, Financial Secretary  
Kyle Brecht, Property Manager  
Ben Check, Night Custodian  
Jen Neall, Worship Child Care  
Terri Shaw, Worship Infant Care

### **\*\*\* OUR WORSHIP SERVICE \*\*\***

IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR CHURCH, and are interested in uniting with this congregation, please speak to Pastor Rebecca or one of our Elders. We would love to have you as a member of our church family. Visitors are encouraged to fill out the pink visitor card found in the pew rack.

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS, BULLETINS, Children's Activity Bulletins, and hearing assist radios are available from the ushers.

THE PRAYER REQUEST FORM is located on the lecterns at the back of the sanctuary. Please fill in your concerns prior to worship.

WE WELCOME AND THANK Sara Swanson, today's liturgist, Lynda Slocum for providing the Children's Sermon, and Jen and Randy Rossey and Matt and Addie Perry for lighting the Advent candle this morning.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given to the Glory of God and in honor of her parents, Sally and Bob Metzgar, by Larry, Kathy, and Drew Lang.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE is an ancient tradition of acknowledging the unique fellowship we have in Christ Jesus. Please take this opportunity to share the peace of Christ by whatever means you and the one you are greeting are most comfortable; a handshake, a hug, or a simple verbal greeting.

A MOMENT WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES — From babes in arms to elementary school age children, we welcome the children forward to the chancel at this time. Parents should feel welcome to accompany younger children. After sharing and a closing prayer, children age 5 and younger may go upstairs for childcare or return to their seats with their parents.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP — Our church welcomes children and families in worship. Nursery care is available on the second floor for infants and very young children. Elementary aged children are encouraged to be part of the service and are welcome to use the worship kits and books located in the back of the sanctuary. Silent pagers are available from the nursery and Terri will be happy to arrange notification of your child's needs.

### **\*\*\* EVENTS \*\*\***

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing officers and approving the pastor's terms of call, today, December 9, at the conclusion of morning worship. Officers elect are:

- Class of 2019 (filling an unexpired term): Jim Eggleston
- Class of 2020 (two-year term): Larry Dyke, Vickie Eggleston, Joanna Elletson, Jennifer Rossey, Lynn Sears, Carol Swanson

- At-large members of the Nominating Committee: Martha Leathers, Richard Swanson, and Randy Rossey

UNGLUED CHURCH TEAM - What's up with the Unglued Church Project now that the formal process is complete? If you are interested in learning more out of curiosity and/or are interested in joining in new ministries as visions are implemented going forward, please join the conversation! Mark your calendar now for a gathering on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in the Memorial Parlors! Refreshments will be provided, and your fresh energy will be welcomed! There will be other opportunities at other times in the near future, but you are encouraged to jump in now if you can! If you have any questions, please ask any member of the team:

Betty Bauer	Larry Dyke	John Lasher	Jen Rossey
Ross Bryan	Jim Holding	Mark Phillips	Lynn Sears
Gale Dyke	Gloria Lasher	Ray Pring	Colleen Vignere

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – This year's Christmas Cantata "Ceremony of Candles" by Joseph Martin will be presented Sunday, December 23. Soloists, ensembles, and choral music will be featured as the choir shares with you this very beautiful and meaningful musical setting of the story of the birth of Jesus. Following the service, Rebecca will host an Open House at the manse from 11:30 until 3:30 P.M.

HOLIDAY HOT MEALS – A sign up sheet is available in the Third Avenue hallway for those wishing to donate cookies or volunteer time to prepare and deliver Christmas meals. Over 300 meals were cooked and delivered at Thanksgiving.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – The Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:00 A.M. in the Craft Room. All are welcome! The study is from the Book of Genesis.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 9 – Session has called a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing officers and approving the pastor's terms of call – following morning worship.
- December 10 – Unglued Church Project invitation to join the conversation
- December 12 – Mug of Conversation at Warren Apartments
- December 12 – Staff Christmas Luncheon
- December 16 – Special Luncheon in honor of Barry, Heather, & Natalie Dietsch in Fellowship Hall. Reservations appreciated.
- December 23 – Christmas Cantata "Ceremony of Candles" & Open House at the manse from 11:30 until 3:30 P.M.
- December 24 – 5:30 PM Children's Service & 8 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service
- December 25 – 6:30 – 11:30 A.M. – Holiday Hot Meals at First Lutheran Church
- December 30 – 10 AM Service of Lessons & Carols at First Lutheran Church

## *Card Shower*

We are organizing a card shower to remember our members who have trouble getting out and about during the Christmas season. You are encouraged to remember these people with a card if you are able.

MR DENNIS BONACE  
10 E 3RD AVE  
WARREN PA 16365-2614

RON & JUNE CARLSON  
ROUSE SUITES #128  
615 ROUSE AVENUE  
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

MRS COLEEN CHRISTY  
2159 MOHAWK AVE  
WARREN PA 16365-3415

HARRY & MARY CONARRO JR  
406 LIBERTY STREET  
WARREN PA 16365-1727

MRS LOUISE CROZIER  
304 JACKSON AVE  
WARREN PA 16365-2642

MRS MARTY HOLTZ  
CAMBRIDGE WARREN  
706 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE W  
WARREN PA 16365

GEORGE & CONNIE JOHNSON  
6 WOODLAWN DRIVE  
WARREN PA 16365-1235

MRS JACQUELINE JOHNSON  
150 BUENA VISTA BLVD  
WARREN PA 16365-3428

MRS BONNY JONES  
ROUSE HOME #814A  
701 ROUSE AVENUE  
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

MS MARTHA JONES  
701 ROUSE AVENUE  
ROUSE HOME ROOM #602  
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

MS SHERRAN JONES  
101 LANSING ST  
N WARREN PA 16365-4605

MRS KATHERINE JUDSON  
6 YUCHA DR  
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

MRS SALLY KASPER  
615 ROUSE AVENUE  
ROUSE SUITES APT 111  
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

DR LARRY KRESPAN  
109 ALEXANDER ST  
WARREN PA 16365-1404

MRS MARGUERITE LASHER  
CAMBRIDGE WARREN  
706 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE ROOM #134  
WARREN PA 16365

JACK & DELORES LEE  
ROUSE SUITES APT 96  
615 ROUSE AVENUE  
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

LUCINDA LOBDELL  
768 CABLE HOLLOW ROAD  
RUSSELL PA 16345

MRS PATTY LUNDAHL  
C/O HIGGINS  
1019 CONEWANGO AVENUE  
WARREN PA 16365-1484

KATHLEEN MAHAFFY  
CAMBRIDGE WARREN #201  
706 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE W  
WARREN PA 16365

DEANE & CAROL PASSMORE  
942 E 5TH AVE EXT  
WARREN PA 16365-8403

MR NORMAN PERSCHKE  
3140 COBHAM PARK RD  
WARREN PA 16365-4420

MRS JAN SCOTT  
8 DITMAR STREET  
N WARREN PA 16365

MR ANDY SLOCUM  
3104 COBHAM PARK  
WARREN PA 16365

MRS BETTY STEKLACIC  
673 BEECH ST  
WARREN PA 16365-3642

MR LARRY STEWART  
560 EAST THIRD STREET  
SOILDERS AND SAILORS HOME  
ERIE PA 16512

MRS BECKY SWANSON  
ROUSE SUITES APT 128  
615 ROUSE AVENUE  
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

## PARISH CALENDAR

### SUNDAY—9

9:00 A.M. SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
Adult Bible Study – Craft Room  
9:00 A.M. Finance Committee Meeting  
10:00 A.M. Morning Worship – Sanctuary  
11:00 A.M. Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary  
11:05 A.M. Fellowship Hour – Memorial Parlor  
11:20 A.M. Shepherds/Deacons meeting – Craft Room

### MONDAY – 10

11:00 A.M. Bible Study – Craft Room  
5:30 P.M. Bible Study – Craft Room  
6:00 P.M. Pack Meeting – Fellowship Hall  
6:00 P.M. Scouting Groups – Downstairs Classrooms  
6:30 P.M. Troop 8 – Scout Room  
6:30 P.M. Unglued Church Project Meeting – Memorial Parlor

### TUESDAY—11

12:00 P.M. AA—Calvin Corner  
1:30 P.M. Communion at the Watson Home  
7:00 P.M. AA (Women’s Group) – Calvin Corner

### WEDNESDAY—12

10:00 A.M. Mug of Conversation – Warren Apartments  
12:00 P.M. Staff Meeting/Staff Christmas Luncheon – Craft Room  
5:45 P.M. Scotland Bell Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary  
7:00 P.M. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Rehearsal Room

### THURSDAY – 13

12:00 P.M. Advent Service – First United Methodist Church  
4:30 P.M. Sharing Place Meal – Fellowship Hall  
6:30 P.M. Scout Committee Meeting  
6:30 P.M. NA – Calvin Corner

### FRIDAY—14

9:30 A.M. Story Time – Second Floor  
6:00 P.M. AA (Men’s Group) - Calvin Corner

### SATURDAY – 15

Private Use – Fellowship Hall

### SUNDAY—16

9:00 A.M. THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
Adult Bible Study – Craft Room  
10:00 A.M. Morning Worship – Sanctuary  
11:00 A.M. Luncheon – Fellowship Hall



FPC Bulletins



FPC Newsletter



Donate to FPC, Warren, PA

# Christmas Poinsettias

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Flower Memorial Fund for the Christmas season is requested to do so by Sunday, December 9, 2018. There is no set price. Please contribute as you wish. Christmas poinsettias may be placed in honor or in memory of loved ones. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 23, and remain through the Christmas Eve services on, Monday, December 24.



Completed order forms must be turned into the church office no later than Sunday, December 9; earlier if possible, please. Payment must accompany the form.

Plants will be distributed to members, shut-ins, nursing homes, or hospitals following the 8:00 P.M. worship service on Christmas Eve, and throughout the week.

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Given by: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In **memory** of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In **honor** of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_ is included.

### **\*\*\* JOYS AND CONCERNS \*\*\***

Ushers have word of encouragement cards. If you would like to write a word of encouragement to any of the people mentioned, or others on your mind, please raise your hand and indicate how many cards you would like. Fill them out and drop them in the offering plate and we will ensure they are delivered during the week.

#### **Joys:**

Prayers of thanksgiving for Frodo, whose tumors were benign.  
Maxx Davis has safely arrived in Germany.

#### **Concerns:**

Prayers for Sean Duckett  
Prayers for June Carlson recovering from hip surgery at the Rouse Home, Room 705B  
Prayers for Calvin Leonard  
Prayers of healing for Betty Jane Berdine  
Prayers for John Gocal (Bob Sears's uncle), recent cancer surgery and rehabbing at St. Mary's Asbury.  
Prayers for Bob Matteo who is recovering from open heart surgery.  
Prayers for Lisa Hochberg  
Prayers for Emma and Leila  
Prayers for Pat Fankhouser  
Prayers for Linda Michael, Kay Dolan's sister, preparing for cancer treatments  
Prayers for Ed Seebeck, who has health concerns.  
Prayers for Connie Bartholomew Waxman who is battling cancer  
Prayers for Rev. George Johnson  
Prayers for Seth  
Pray for healing and strength for Katie Rodgers, a teacher at WAEC, who is battling cancer  
Prayers for Coleen Christy  
Prayers for Andy Slocum  
Prayers for Larry Krespan  
Courage, strength, and faith to all those affected by violent crimes.  
Those serving in our military, people struggling with addiction, & those in jail  
Let us pray for all the downtrodden and those facing famine and hunger in remote and desolate places. Let the Light of the Lord shine on all peoples in all nations.

### **\*\*\* PRESBYTERY JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS \*\*\***

#### **Joys and Concerns:**

We acknowledge and pray for the churches and ministerial staff that constitute the Lake Erie Presbytery. This week we pray for the Meadville's First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Brian Jensen, Pastor, and Missionaries of the PC (USA) throughout the world.