



## *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 23, 2018*

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

December 23, 2018

10:00 A.M.

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Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S GRACE

GATHERING MUSIC                      *Awake! Sing Gloria!*                      Joseph Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE                                      *Carol of the Faithful*                      Joseph Martin

INTROIT:                                      *Adeste Fideles*                      Anonymous/Wade

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (Responsive)

L: There is so much love to share in this season of Advent! We give hugs and kisses to grandmas and grandpas and aunts and uncles and even cousins and friends... and we remember the most important love of all: God's love!

**P: We are reminded as we worship this day that there are some people in our community who are not surrounded by love and who do not know of God's love!**

L: The first letter of John teaches us, "This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we ought to love each other."

**P: And so, we will love as God loves as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled!**

\*HYMN                                      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*                      #143

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) [adapted from Prayers for a Privileged People by Walter Brueggemann]:

**We confess, O God, that we love you imperfectly, with a divided heart, with reservation and qualification. We do not keep your commands, order our lives by your purpose, or align ourselves with your deepest affections. Forgive us and lead us beyond our thin devotion that we may answer back in love to your great love to us! 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 to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* #582

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 *Hear Our Prayer* B. Dietsch

OFFERING

Offertory *Pastorale* from Messiah

\*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

\*HYMN

*Joy to the World*

#134

PROCLAMATION IN SONG:

***Ceremony of Candles***

Joseph M. Martin

Director and Keyboards: Barry Dietsch

Accompanist: Heather Dietsch

Narrator: Ann Ferguson

Percussion: John Lasher

Acolyte: Natalie Dietsch

Procession of Lights

In the Bleak Midwinter

solos by Heather and Natalie Dietsch

The Promised Light

An Advent Credo

An Advent Celebration

Bethlehem Light

In Silence He Came

solos by Debbie Hunter and Carrie Salapek

Rise and Shine!

Invitation to the Manager

All Is Calm, All Is Bright

A Blessing of Light

POSTLUDE

*Fantasia on The First Nowell*

Robert Hughes

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 \*\*\*

I Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Questions for Reflection

Consider Jesus as an adolescent, causing his parents to worry about him. Jesus asks his parents, “Why were you searching for me?” If you were a parent of Jesus, how would you answer that question? How do you answer that question for yourself?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus, as you listened to your teachers, may I also, this day, listen to others with care and grace, and receive whatever wisdom they may offer. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, you know every struggle I have faced this day: let me sleep in peace, confident in your great love in Jesus Christ. 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.

**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 John Eldridge, today's liturgist, Rebecca Taylor for providing the Children's Sermon, and Joanna, Jesse, and Jenson Elletson for lighting the Advent candle this morning. We thank Barry and Heather Dietsch and the members of our choirs for their time and dedication to provide us with such exceptional music this Christmas season and always.

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 \*\*\***

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 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

## HOLIDAY AND VACATION SCHEDULES –

- The church building and office will be closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 1 with exceptions for the Christmas Eve services and the Tuesday support groups.
- Rebecca will be on holiday from December 26 to December 29
- Marilyn will be off, returning Wednesday, January 2. Betsy will be in the office Wednesday and Thursday, December 26 & 27 from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

### **\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \*\***

DONATIONS AND GIFTS – The following donations have been received:

- to the Music Fund in honor of Barry and Heather Dietsch

HELP LEAD OUR MUSIC MINISTRY - First Presbyterian Church of Warren, PA seeks a dynamic, creative leader or leaders for our Music Ministry. Our team leader will chart the musical direction for our church for both worship and special events. We have a Sanctuary Choir and a Scotland Handbell Choir that require music selection, rehearsal and worship service direction as well as accompaniment. Available is a grand piano and a 1956 Casavant Pipe Organ. The organ was built and is regularly serviced by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders of Canada and is renown through the area. For additional information, please contact Lynn Sears, Personnel Chair at (814)730-9479 or [thesears4@msn.com](mailto:thesears4@msn.com). A résumé may be sent to the above email address or to First Presbyterian Church 300 Market St. Warren, PA 16365 Attn: Lynn Sears

## PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY—23    **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
9:00 A.M.      Adult Bible Study – Craft Room  
10:00 A.M.      Christmas Cantata presented at Morning Worship –  
                         Sanctuary  
11:30 A.M.      until 3:30 P.M. - Christmas Open House - Manse

MONDAY – 24    **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
                         **BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED PRIOR TO THE CHRISTMAS EVE**  
                         **SERVICES**  
5:30 P.M.      Children’s Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary  
8:00 P.M.      Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service -  
Sanctuary

TUESDAY—25    **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
                         **BUILDING CLOSED**  
12:00 P.M.      AA – Calvin Corner  
7:00 P.M.      AA (Women’s Group) – Calvin Corner

WEDNESDAY—26

THURSDAY – 27  
6:30 P.M.      NA – Calvin Corner

FRIDAY—28  
9:30 A.M.      Story Time – Second Floor  
6:00 P.M.      AA (Men’s Group) - Calvin Corner

SUNDAY—30  
10:00 A.M.      Service of Lessons and Carols – First Lutheran Church



FPC Bulletins



FPC Newsletter



Donate to FPC, Warren, PA



**\*\*\* 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:**

Maxx Davis has safely arrived in Germany.

**Concerns:**

Prayers for Ralph Wade, Carol Hanna's brother, diagnosed with colon cancer & is back at the Rouse

Prayers for Joyce Puleo, who will begin stem cell transplantation through Mid-January 2019 at

Hillman's Cancer Center in Pittsburgh

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 Bradford First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Katherine Randall and Rev. Rob Klouw, co-pastors, and Rev. Lee Beckes, Honorably Retired.



**DONOR**



**IN MEMORY OF**

Dennis Bonace, Greg, Pam, & Brendan Lyle ..... Marilyn Lyke Bonace  
 Brenda Bonace Martin

Dorothy Collins..... Plummer Collins

Louise Crozier..... George Crozier

Carmen Culbertson ..... My dear husband, Glenn Culbertson

Barry, Heather, & Natalie Dietsch..... Bob & Donna Dietsch  
 Pete and Birdie Martin  
 David Kasper, Lois Conrad, Jim  
 Bartholomew, Bob Dietsch, Paul Cree, Rich  
 Bonafede, George Crozier, & Carole Blasco

Caroline & David Dorn ..... My dear father, Glenn Culbertson

Martha Goodman..... Friends & family who are no longer with us

John & Carol Hanna..... Our parents

Jim & Anne Higgins ..... Our fathers, Franklin Higgins & Bill Lundahl

Hishman family ..... Paul F. Hishman  
 Sarah Nicole Hishman

Matt & Tina Huey ..... Dr. & Mrs. John Huey

The Matt Huey & Lyle families ..... Nancy Babcock Biekarck

The Hunter family ..... Bob, Donna, & Adam Dietsch  
 Gail & Janet Hunter

Jacqueline L. Johnson..... Robert "Spinner" Johnson  
 John & Rosalia Lyke

Nick & Casey Johnson ..... Eleanor Johnson

Mrs. Robert (Kay) Jones ..... Gail Jones family

Rev. Harold & Gretchen Kelley..... The saints of First Presbyterian Church

Her family..... Penny Krespan

John & Gloria Lasher ..... John W. Lasher,  
 George & Mary Sennett  
 Georgiann Calafrancesco  
 Amy Haworth







**DONOR**

**IN HONOR OF**

Rev. Harold & Gretchen Kelley.....	The saints of First Presbyterian Church
Larry, Kathy, & Drew Lang.....	Robert & Sally Metzgar
John & Gloria Lasher .....	Jesse, Joanna, & Jensen Elletson
	Marguerite Lasher
Martha Leathers.....	Kimmie & Jesus
	Steve & Natassja
Jen & Randy Rossey .....	Matt & Addie
	Bette Lou
Don & Jan Scott.....	Church officers
Grandma & Papa Sears .....	Owen, Liam, & Noah Baldensperger
Lynda Slocum, Norm Perschke, & families .....	Our loved ones
Rebecca Taylor .....	Margaret Taylor
	This faithful congregation
Bernie & Dottie Wingert .....	Our family

