

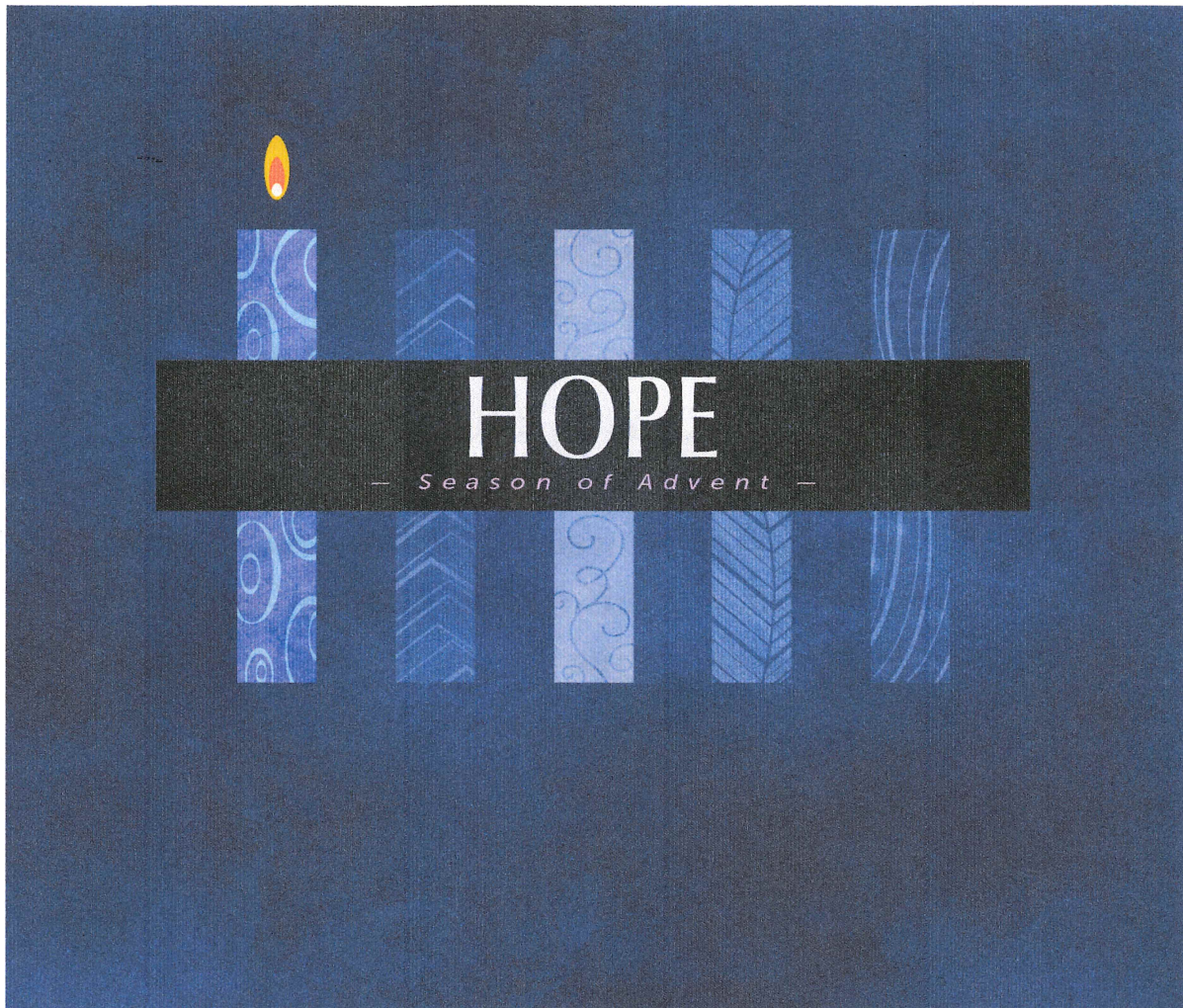
*Large Print Bulletin*

# *First Presbyterian Church*

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*First Sunday of Advent  
November 27, 2022*



**700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214**

**814-226-8145**

**[churchoffice@clarionpresby.org](mailto:churchoffice@clarionpresby.org)**

***We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.***

**Per the Session, masks are now optional unless you have an upper respiratory ailment.**

# **We Gather in God's Name**

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

## **Welcome and Announcements**

Lector, Jim McConnell

We silently shift our focus to God and prepare to worship.

## **Prelude**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Edward Broughton

## **Advent Reading and Candle Lighting**

Bill & Bonnie Champion, Audrina Smith

Let us pray together:

**God of hope, in the busyness of this season, help us to take time for quiet reflection—for the light of your love is evident everywhere. Grant that we might allow ourselves to be surprised by wonder, and to still ourselves long enough to offer quiet thanks. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming. Empower us O God to welcome Christ into our hearts, to let ourselves be guided by his ministry, to go forth from this place in hope. In the name of the coming Christ, Amen.**

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in bold.

✦ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

✦ **Hymn** No. 85 (v. 1) *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

Text: Wold, 1984

Music: Yiddish folk song

## **Call to Worship**

Let us go into the house of the Lord!

**Let us meet God with joy!**

God builds us up like a great city.

**May peace be within our walls.**

Let us seek the goodness of God;

**Let us go into the house of the Lord!**

✠ **Hymn No. 94** *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

Text: Bringle, 2005

Music: Alexander Johnson's

*Tennessee Harmony, 1818*

**Call to Confession**

This is the time for us to wake from sleep; salvation is near to us. Let us then lay aside the tatters of sin, and put on the armor of righteousness, asking our Savior for forgiveness.

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

O God, we are steeped in a world of violence. War is one of the first things we learn, and we let it work its way into our lives. Your promises of peace sound like impossible dreams, and we become accustomed to cruelty. Forgive us. Wrest our weapons from our hands, and show us how beautiful life can be when you forge them into instruments of peace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

Beloved, know this: the God of Presence, the God of Transformation, the God of Peace, hears our prayers and gives us power to love.

Friends, believe the Good News:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

✠ **Gloria Patri**

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

✠ **Passing of the Peace**

# **We Share God's Word**

**Time with the Children**

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **First Scripture**

Isaiah 2:1-5

(p. 631)

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

### **Second Scripture**

Romans 13:11-14

(p. 162)

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God,  
from whom all  
blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all  
creatures here  
below; Praise  
Him above, ye  
heavenly host;  
Praise Father,  
Son, and Holy  
Ghost. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father,  
who art in heav-  
en, hallowed be  
thy name. Thy  
kingdom come,  
thy will be  
done, on earth  
as it is in heav-  
en. Give us this  
day our daily  
bread; and for-  
give us our  
debts as we for-  
give our debt-  
ors; and lead us  
not into tempta-  
tion, but deliver  
us from evil.  
For thine is the  
kingdom, and  
the power, and  
the glory forev-  
er. Amen.

## Sermon

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

“What Time Is It?”

## ✠ Hymn No. 93

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Text: Weissel, 1642

Music: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778

## We Give Thanks to God

### ✠ Affirmation of Faith

*6.097 Westminster Confession of Faith*

**Such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in a state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God: which hope shall never make them ashamed.**

## Call for the Offering

### Offering and Offertory

*Watch Now*

Ruth Elaine Schram

### ✠ Doxology

### ✠ Prayer of Dedication

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

# We Go Forth to Serve

✠ **Hymn** No. 97

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

Text: Bowring, 1825, alt.

Music: Parry, 1876

✠ **Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude\***

*Invention on “Wachet Auf”*

*(Wake, Awake for Night is Flying)*

Philipp Nicolai,

arr. Thomas Chesterson

\*Please remember at the close of the service to remain quiet and seated until the conclusion of the Postlude, which marks the end of the worship service.



# Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

85



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
 4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the




light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -  
 light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the  
 light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and  
 light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;




va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
 lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
 tell the glad ti - dings. Let your lights be shin - ing.

This text works best when used incrementally during the four weeks of Advent. It underscores the "waiting" theme of the season and concludes appropriately with reference to Matthew 25:1-13. The tune name meaning "deep in the forest" comes from the opening of a Yiddish love song.


## 94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is  
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to  
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of



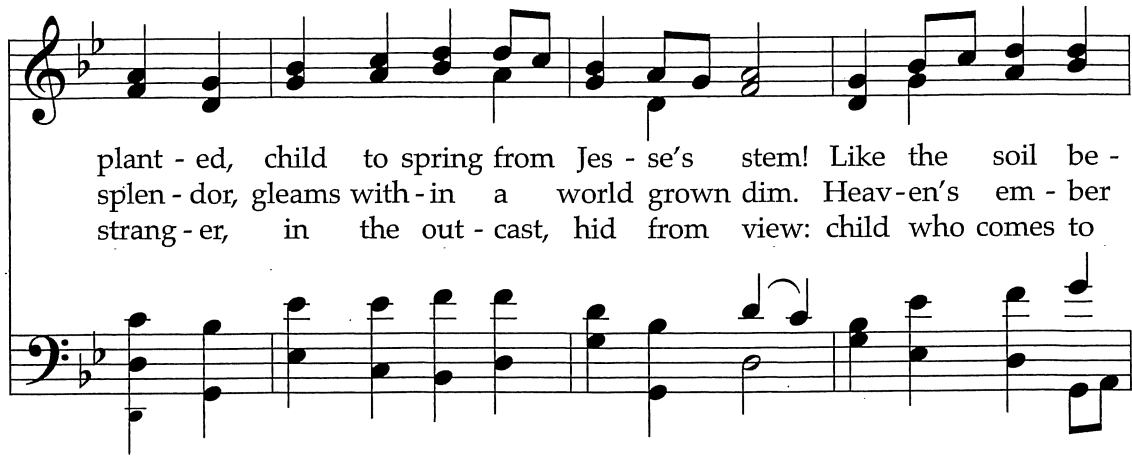
grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten  
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness  
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance




to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly  
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of  
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.





plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -  
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber  
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to



neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

## Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93


1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

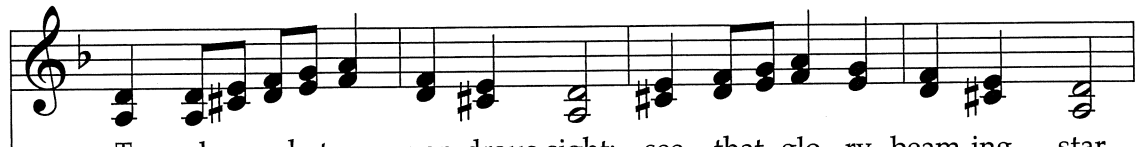
King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner


draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.


Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

# Watchman, Tell Us of the Night 97

\*  
  
 1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.  
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.  
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

  
 Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.  
 Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.  
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

  
 Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?  
 Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.

  
 Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.  
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
 Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

*\*May be sung antiphonally.*

This unusual dialogue hymn alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ. The tune is named for a Welsh town whose name means "mouth of the bending river."

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### **Tuesday, November 29**

6:00 p.m. NA, Step Down Room

### **Wednesday, November 30**

12:00 p.m. Go Tell! Adult Study, Chapel

8:00 p.m. AA, Step Down Room

### **Thursday, December 1**

5:00 p.m. Joyful Bells, Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy, Bell Rehearsal

### **Next Sunday, December 4**

#### **Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Cantata Practice

### **Monday, December 5**

#### **International Peace Light**

4:00 a.m. Caravan leaves First Presby

Breakfast at the church when we return

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Per the Session, masks are now optional unless you have an upper respiratory ailment. Please note that CDC guidance may result in future changes.**

**GO TELL! is the adult lunch program on Wednesdays that will study Advent. The**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

program begins November 30th and runs through December 21st. We will meet from noon until 1:00 pm in the Chapel each Wednesday. Bring your lunch. Contact the church office via phone (814) 226-8145 or email [churchoffice@clarionpresby.org](mailto:churchoffice@clarionpresby.org) so we can order your book.

**The Adult Choir will present the cantata, "God With Us!" during worship on December 11th.**

**The next Food Bag Distribution is Thursday, December 15th from 2:00—4:00 p.m.** Elaine Matticks will put out a call for volunteers to help with shopping for food that week, bagging the day before and morning of, and distributing food that afternoon. All are welcome to help.

**The Echoes of Joy Bell Choir** will play during Worship on Sunday, December 18th.

**Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service is December 24th at 7:00 p.m.** We will use the **International Peace Light** that we get on **December 5th to light our candles on Christmas Eve!** This light comes directly from the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. You do not want to miss this unique way to celebrate Christ's birth!

**Please pray for:**

- *Members with known health concerns:* Fred Port, Randy Cable, and Ruth Showers.
- *Our family and friends:* Shirley & John McKinley's relatives: Mary Biser, Charlotte Hartman, Kenneth Daugherty, Jr., Ben McKinley, and David Mahle; Carolyn McFarland's relatives: Rick & Janelle Moore; Kristen Maze's neighbor, Laurie Dickey; Bob & Paula Bowersox; Beverly Wentling's daughter, Rebecca Irwin; Bert Louder's grandson, Anthony Louder; and Michelle Deitz's sister, Roxanne Uplinger.
- *And all serving in the US Military* including members/friends of our own faith family.

**Homebound Member of the week:** Please remember Sam Spencer, Edgewood Heights, 612 Keck Avenue, New Bethlehem, PA 16242.

## WELCOME VISITORS

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to provide hybrid and virtual worship services for this Sunday.** Services are currently livestreamed on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion) in real time, then archived to our website and Facebook page.

At First Presbyterian Church our mission is to worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus. From our youngest to our oldest, we seek to worship God in our actions, grow in God's love, and serve God's people in our community and around the world. We hope that you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular prayer needs, please feel free to contact the church office at 226-8145, 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

**For more information** visit our website at [www.clarionfirstpresby.org](http://www.clarionfirstpresby.org).

**Find us on Facebook!** (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

**Radio Broadcast-**WWCH 1300AM and 94.1 FM the third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

**Video recordings** of past sermons may be viewed by clicking the "Worship" link on our home page at [www.clarionfirstpresby.org](http://www.clarionfirstpresby.org) or a phone app is available at [sermon.net](http://sermon.net) (look for First Presbyterian Church—Clarion.) You can also choose to listen to an audio version. Simply pick the option that works best for you. Videos of Sunday worship are also posted on our Facebook page (see above).

## CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Rebecca Mihm	<b>Secretary:</b>	Debra Owens
<b>Organist:</b>	Jean Mitrosky	<b>Sexton:</b>	Jeff Kapp/Cindy Kapp
<b>Director of Music:</b>	Bonnie Champion	<b>Sound Engineer:</b>	Josh Deitz
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brenda Nesbitt	<b>Video Engineer:</b>	Dan Willy

### **Ruling Elders:**

Class of 2022: Joe Burns, Robin Cable, Michelle Deitz, Cindy Stants

Class of 2023: John Joy, Bert Louder, Jim McConnell

Class of 2024: Kathy Larimer, Elaine Matticks, Pam Reid

### **Deacons:**

Class of 2022: Tamalyn Goble, Mike Hetrick, Carolyn McFarland, Debra Owens

Class of 2023: Suellen Gourley, Cindy Kapp, Norma Kooman

Class of 2024: Bonnie Champion, Marianne Reynolds, Mary Swanger

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Guest Preacher:** Rev. Rebecca Mihm  
**Lector:** Jim McConnell  
**Time with Children:** Rev. Rebecca Mihm  
**Director of Music:** Bonnie Champion  
**Organist:** Jean Mitrosky  
**Sound Engineer:** Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp  
**Video Engineer:** Dan Willy  
**Acolytes:** Ruby Collett, Gavin Kunselman, Aubrie Scovel, Emma Willy  
**Greeter and Ushers:** Marianne Reynolds, Kristen Maze, Bill Champion, and Audrina Smith

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
11:00 a.m. Sunday School  
No Choir or Cantata Rehearsal

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

**11/21/2022**

Envelope Contributions	\$1,345.00
Misc. Cash Contributions	<u>\$88.00</u>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,433.00</b>
Food Bags	\$800.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Head Start Rent—December	<u>\$1,245.00</u>
<b>Total Deposit</b>	<b>\$3,498.00</b>

## NOTES:



