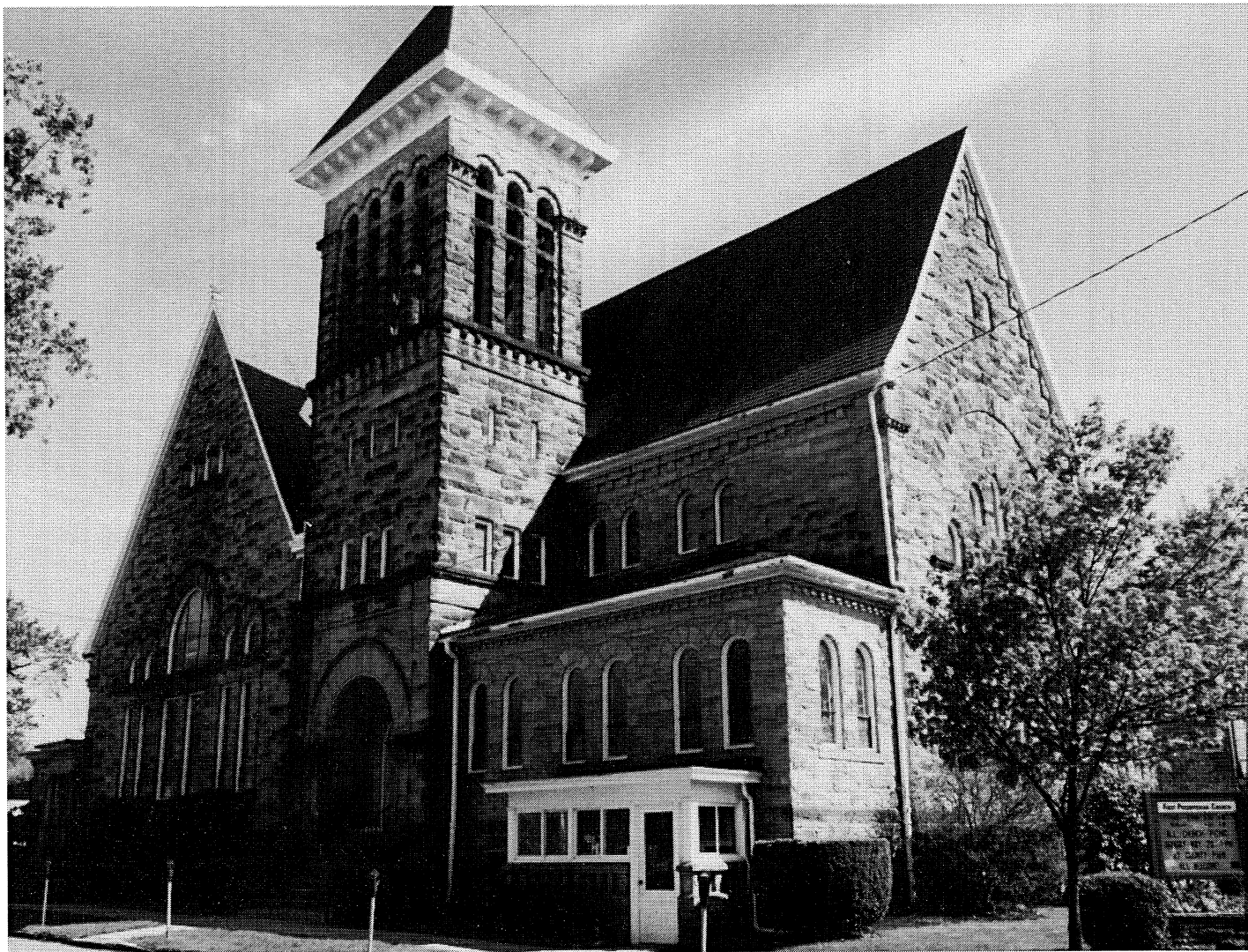


# *First Presbyterian Church*

---



*First Sunday of Advent  
Communion  
December 1, 2024*



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

[churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org](mailto:churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org)

[www.clarionfirstpresby.org](http://www.clarionfirstpresby.org)

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

# We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

First Sunday of Advent

Communion

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Cindy Stants

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

Prelude

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

arr. Edward Broughton

Chiming of the Trinity

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

Hymn (Insert—vs. 1-2)

*We Light the Advent Candles*

Barbara Beggs, Stacy Hoffman

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

Call to Worship

Clear away the unnecessary.

Lay down the unrealistic.

Cut the lists in half.

Look for the moments of stillness.

**Put aside the unimportant.**

**Keep your ears open for angel songs.**

**Practice saying, "No thanks."**

**Keep your eyes looking for a star,  
your hands ready to give,  
your voice filled with song,  
and your heart longing for joy.**

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

✦ Hymn No. 82

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

✦ Call to Confession

During Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, full of grace and truth. Trusting in God's unfailing grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves, joining in our prayer of confession.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Healer God, come to us now as you did long ago. Come to us with strength and courage as you did for Elijah and for Micah. Come to us with guidance and purpose as you did for Mary and Peter. Come to us with help and healing balm for our brokenness and the despair that hangs heavy upon us. We are troubled by demons of worry, stress, anxiety, anger, and greed. The warring of the nations goes on and we find our trust placed in so many wrong places. Center our living upon you, Lord of history and creation, and remind us that we continue always to live in your grace and mercy; in the name of Jesus, our constant friend. Amen.

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Friends, we are ALL invited to this table.

I am here to announce that whatever you think disqualified you from God's love has been washed away by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

I announce to you that our sins have been forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

✦ 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

## We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

Cindy Stants

New Testament Reading

I Thessalonians 3:9-13

(p. 204)

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

(p. 85)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

## Organ Interlude

✦Hymn No. 451

*Open My Eyes that I Might See***We Give Thanks to God**

## ✦Advent Affirmation of Faith

Advent is a time of waiting and wondering. Someone is on his way. Something is about to happen.

"And what I say to you I say to all: Watch." Let us watch for Christ in the torment of the nations.

**We will know him by his healing.**

Let us watch for Christ in the tumult of our cities.

**We will know him by his reconciling.**

Let us watch for Christ in the doldrums of his church.

**We will know him by his quickening.**

Let us watch for Christ in our own troubled selves.

**We will know him by his loving touch, which reassures us about ourselves, and galvanizes us into serving each other, and the cities, and the nations, and the church. It was Jesus who said it: "And what I say to you I say to all: "Watch." And so we will!**

## Call for the Offering

## Offering and Offertory

*The Coming of the Lord*  
(Descant: Dana Solida)

Pepper Choplin

## ✦Doxology

## ✦Prayer of Dedication

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

## Invitation to the Table

## Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Words of Institution

## Partaking of the Elements

## Prayer after Communion

We thank you God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ, and have received Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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

**We Go Forth to Serve**

✦Hymn No. 357

*The Days Are Surely Coming*

## ✦Charge and Benediction

## Postlude

*Invention on "Wachet Auf"*

Philipp Nicolai,  
arr. Thomas Chesterson

## 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 heaven, hallowed be 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.

## POSTLUDE

Please remember at the close of the service, the Postlude is a time to silently reflect on God and the mission to which we are called. We ask that you please remain silent and seated until the music has ended.

## 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 YouTube channel.

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 between 9 a.m. and 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)

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).

All rights reserved. All sheet music uploaded to our website ([clarionfirstpresby.org](http://clarionfirstpresby.org)) for use with this worship service has been reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-727612 or reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, all rights reserved. Livestreamed music is with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and/or OneLicense.net #A-727612.

## CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

**Pastor:** Rev. Rebecca Mihm  
**Organist:** Jean Mitrosky  
**Director of Music:** Bonnie Champion  
**Treasurer:** Ann Brooks  
**Secretary:** Debra Owens  
**Sexton:** Mike Hetrick  
**Sound Engineer:** Josh Deitz  
**Video Engineer:** Dan Willy

### Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Kathy Larimer	Jeff Deitz	Norma Kooman
Elaine Matticks	Jeff Kapp	Dave Larimer
Pam Reid	Kurt Nesbitt	Cindy Stants

### Deacons:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Bonnie Champion	Kim Lewis	Robin Cable
Marianne Reynolds	Lee Seitz	Tamalyn Goble
Mary Swanger	Lori Smith	Joey Kunselman

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Guest Preacher:** Rev. Gary Lyon  
**Lector:** Cindy Stants  
**Time with Children:** Debra Owens  
**Director of Music:** Bonnie Champion  
**Organist:** Jean Mitrosky  
**Sound Engineer:** Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp  
**Video Engineer:** Dan Willy/Kurt Nesbitt  
**Acolytes:** Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy, Andrew Scovel, Nathan Scovel, Sawyer Kunselman, Audrina Champion  
**Ushers in Charge:** Lori Smith, Lee Seitz, Kim Lewis

**We warmly welcome Rev. Gary Lyon to our pulpit this morning.**  
Gary is a retired Presbyterian minister, but we keep putting him to work. We are always blessed when he is here.

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship  
No Sunday School for Children or Adults  
11:00 a.m. Choir Practice  
11:30 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

11/24/2024

### Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,260.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$200.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$2,460.00</b>

### Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$225.00
Men's Fellowship	\$45.00
Rental Income	\$1,245.00
Caring Callers	\$25.00
Xmas Flowers	\$222.00
AA Rent—3 months	\$60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,822.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,282.00</b>

## NOTES:

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Tuesday, December 3

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

### Wednesday, December 4

10:30 a.m. Caring Callers Mtg and Brunch, Eat'n Park

12:00 p.m. Advent Study, CE Opening Room

4:30 p.m. Food Bag Meeting

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

### Thursday, December 5

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Bells Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

### Friday, December 6

Red Kettle Ringer Day—See sheet in Ramp Room

### Next Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

11:45 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Advent Study:** Come join us for an Advent Study on Wednesdays. We will meet at noon in the CE Building. We will be focusing on Roth Boling's book, Seasons Greetings: Christmas Letters from Those Who Were There.

**Red Kettle Ringers Needed for this Friday:** First Presbyterian's day for the local Salvation Army bell ringing is Friday, Dec. 6th at the Walmart in Clarion. The signup sheet is available in the Ramp Room.

**We will have a Congregational Meeting after worship on December 15th.** The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Pastor's terms of call. The ordination and installation of Elders and Deacons will also take place.

**Touched by a Child, Touched by a King:** The Adult Choir will present this John Purifoy cantata during worship on Sunday, December 22nd. Follow the experiences of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and finally all those who believe today, in this combination of song, narration and Christmas texts.

**Disaster Clean-Up Buckets:** The Mission Team is putting together clean-up buckets and hygiene kits to help those affected by the recent hurricanes. We are coordinating with Church World Service. The need is great and any help is much appreciated. If you choose to donate, please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church with "clean-up buckets" on the memo line.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**Coat Rack Ministry:** As the weather gets colder, please check your closet to see if there are any coats or boots that you are willing to donate. The need is great as witnessed by the turnover each week. If you are in need or know someone who is in need, please take a coat!

**The Worship Committee would like to thank those of you who turned out last Sunday** and helped decorate the church. Some folks started working after church, others came in early, and some trickled in later. We had pizza and soda and cookies and fellowship! It took at least eight total hours of work to complete the job. Please consider joining us next year as many hands make light work.

**The Christmas Joy Offering** dates back to the 1930's and equally benefits the Board of Pensions Assistance Program and Presbyterian racial ethnic education and leadership development. Please consider a gift to this fund now through

## PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable  
Margy Port  
Shirley McKinley  
Pauline Henry  
Ruth Ann Minich  
All our homebound members

Ryan Cornicki  
Jerry Deitz  
Greg Rhoads  
Don Neideritter  
Michael Kurtas, Jr.  
Tom Minich

Mary Biser  
Charlotte Hartman  
Ben McKinley  
Laurie Dickey  
Anthony Louder  
Pat Hargest  
Alice Davis  
Alexandra Sharrar  
Dr. Shannon Penland  
Mary Kay Arth  
Mason Martin and family  
Angelo Gehenio  
Joe Amato  
Rob Summerville  
Evie Renwick  
Cori  
Chuck Reninger  
Grace Carroll  
Mike Hiles  
Kay Caller  
Dan Clark  
Amy Benhoff  
Archer Kunselman  
Lori Beth

Bereaved  
Please remember the friends and family of:  
Don McCord  
Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.  
Peggy Seigworth

Around the World  
Everyone serving in the US Military

Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Randy Cable  
450 Greenville Pike  
Clarion, PA 16214

DECEMBER 1, 2024  
FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

taking  
faith  
home

*The coming of Jesus gives us hope.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man
Monday	Jeremiah 33:14-16	The Lord's wonderful promise
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Paul's words of thanks
Wednesday	Luke 17:20-21	The coming of the kingdom
Thursday	Matthew 6:25-34	Do not worry
Friday	Colossians 1:9-14	The person and work of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for guidance and help
Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near." Luke 21:31 (NRSV)*

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you I place my trust, O God, and wait for you all day long with hope in Christ. Amen. (Psalm 25:1-2, 5)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless us with hope as we prepare for your coming. We give thanks for this gift of food that strengthens us as we wait. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with hope.



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

DECEMBER 1, 2024  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

taking  
faith  
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you hope for during the Advent season?
- When you are afraid, where do you turn for guidance and hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 21:25-36.

Whether it is a friend who betrays us or we see violence in the news, we can worry and feel fearful about the future. When life is going well and we seem not to have a care in the world, we can forget our need and desire for God's saving work in our lives and in the world. When bad things happen and we want to hide, that is the time to be alert, look up, and see the one we have been waiting for. We will not be disappointed for the kingdom of God is near and nothing can stop God's heroic work from taking place. That is the message of Jesus for people living in unsettling times, whether thousands of years ago or today. This message is important to hear anytime, especially at the beginning of Advent, the time of hope and waiting for Christ's coming into our world as Savior.

Discuss: Bad things do happen. How is God with you during those difficult times?

Pray: Dear God, in times of fear and discomfort, help us to remember your saving work in our lives and wait with hope knowing that your kingdom is near through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone look to the future with hope?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The Advent Wreath is a Christian tradition. Make one for your home. Purchase a round wreath or Advent Wreath frame. Decorate it with greens, ribbons, or other materials. Place four candles on it. The circle represents God's infinite love. Light the first candle that symbolizes the theme of hope.

Say: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (Jeremiah 33:14)

Pray: Lord, thank you for your promise to us which is filled with expectation and hope. Amen.

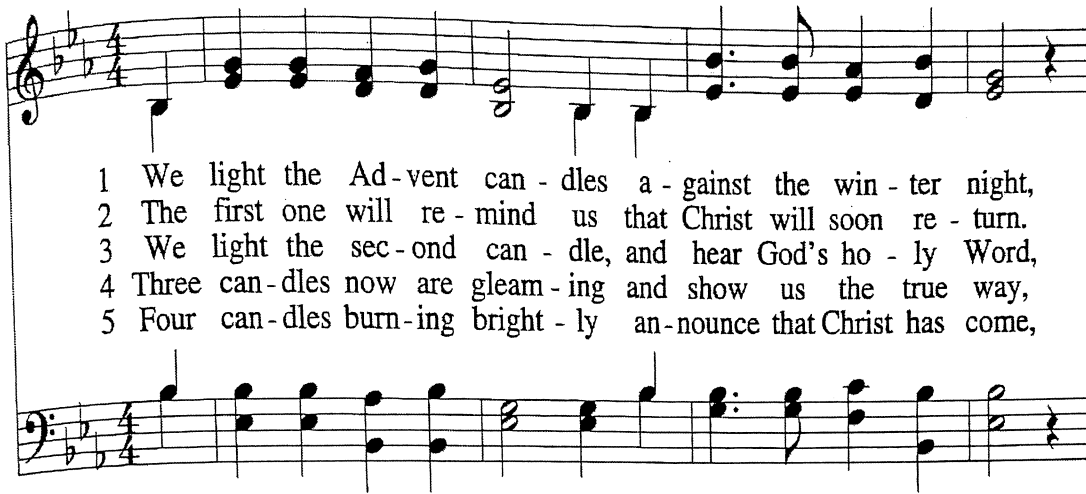


In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

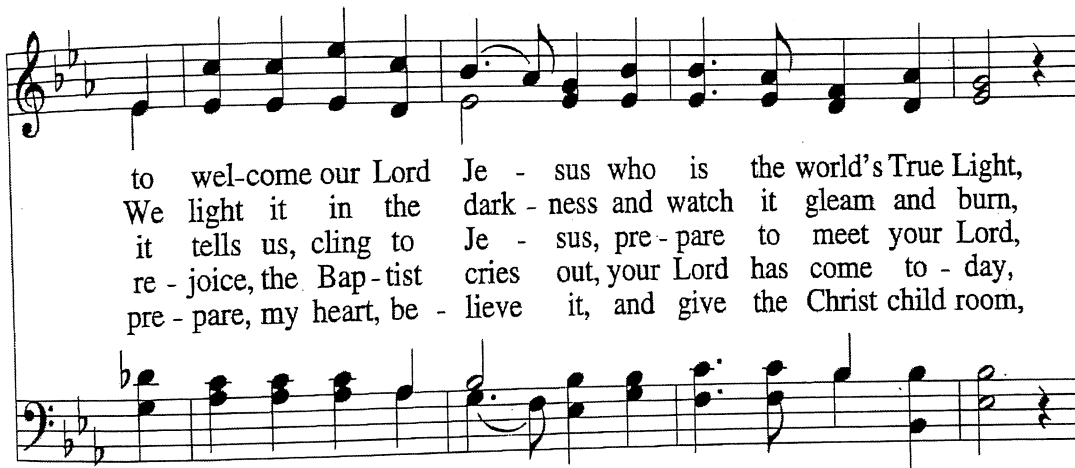
# We Light the Advent Candles

ADVENT

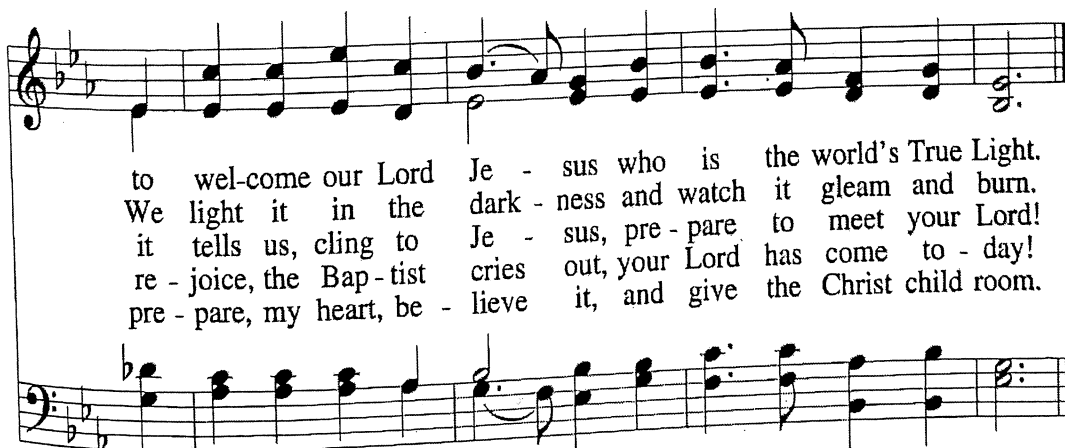
175



1 We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night,  
2 The first one will re - mind us that Christ will soon re - turn.  
3 We light the sec - ond can - dle, and hear God's ho - ly Word,  
4 Three can - dles now are gleam - ing and show us the true way,  
5 Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly an - nounce that Christ has come,



to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light,  
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn,  
it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord,  
re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day,  
pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room,



to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.  
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn.  
it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord!  
re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day!  
pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room.



## Weekly Copyright Info – December 1, 2024

### COPYRIGHTS:

**Prelude:** “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus,” arr. Edward Broughton. Music: © 2003 *Lorenz Publishing Co.* a division of *The Lorenz Corporation* (Admin.by *Music Services*).

Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

**Advent Hymn:** “We Light the Advent Candles” from Worship & Rejoice #175. Text: Gracia Grindal. Music: German folk tune. Text: © 1999 *Hope Publishing Company*.

Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

**1<sup>st</sup> Hymn:** “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus” from Glory to God #82. Text: Charles Wesley, 1744. Music: Christian F. Witt’s *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt. Public Domain.

Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, Public Domain.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hymn:** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” from Glory to God #451. Text & Music: Clara H. Scott, 1895. Public Domain. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, Public Domain.

**Offertory:** “The Coming of the Lord,” Pepper Choplin. ©2010 *Lorenz Publishing Co.* a division of *The Lorenz Corporation* (Admin.by *Music Services*). Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048, all rights reserved.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Hymn:** “The Days Are Surely Coming” from Glory to God #357. Text: David Gambrell, 2009. Music: Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1872; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Text: © 2011 *David Gambrell* (admin. *Presbyterian Publishing Corp.*).

Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

**Postlude:** “Invention on Wachet Auf,” Philipp Nicolai, arr. Thomas Chesterson. © 1991 *Lorenz Publishing Co.* a division of *The Lorenz Corporation* (Admin.by *Music Services*).

Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from the “New Revised Standard Version Bible (NSRV),” copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.