



Greencastle Presbyterian Church

10:00 am Worship Service

4th Sunday of Advent

The Order of Worship for December 24, 2023

* *Please stand as able*

Centering Thoughts

*Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush,
rather than a last-minute rush*

Welcome & Brief Announcements

The Prelude

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear RS White, arr. PF Tillen
Brian Keck & Greg Strine, *baritone horn*
Barry Leap & Fred Davison, *trombone*

*The Call to Worship

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

People: We will worship our Lord and savior, from whom all our blessings flow.

*Hymn #105 *People Look East*

*The Prayer of Confession (unison)

Shepherd of your people, we have turned away from you and strayed from the paths of righteousness. We have neglected the welfare of others, ignored those in need, trampled harshly on this creation, and let discord fester within our families. Forgive us, merciful Savior. Turn us back to you. Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved. Hear now our silent prayers of confession. (Silent prayer)

*The Assurance of Pardon and Peace

Leader: Friends! Believe the Good News! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*The Gloria Patri #583 *Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Anne Larew and Bryan Larew

The Children's Time

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)

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.

The First Scripture Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Anthem *Come to Us, O Promised One*

Lloyd Larson

*The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

The Message

Response to the Word (Unison)

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity, of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us ever live in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world. (~ Daniel Berrigan, S.J.)

*Hymn #106 *Prepare The Way, O Zion*

Joys, Cares and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

*The Doxology #606

*The Dedication of Our Offerings

*The Closing Hymn #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel! (vs. 1 & 7)

*The Blessing

The Postlude *Immanuel*

Michael Car

Greg Strine

Guest soprano - Marisabel Cordova

SERVING THE CHURCH TODAY

Preaching..... Rev. Dr. Robert Cook
Liturgist.....Patti Divelbiss
Musicians..... Dr. J. Frederick Davison, Greg Strine,
Brian Keck, Barry Leap, Marisabel Cordova
Advent Candle Anne Larew, Bryan Larew
Sunday School Teachers..... Keri Papa
Video / Audio Tech Jim Papa
Closer..... Paul Sauder

*Please join us for coffee, refreshments, and fellowship
in the Social Room after Worship. Everyone is welcome!*

Hosted by Polly Coulter and the Papa Family.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

In Memory of



Shirley Cook

by Terry & Lynn Davis (*red*)

Robert & Dixie Davis

by Terry & Lynn Davis (*red*)

Michael Durff by David Durff (*pink*)

My mother, Matilda Johnson

by Polly Coulter (*red*)

Herman Stamper by Polly Coulter (*red*)

Elmer “Pete” Peterson

by Scott Peterson and Candace Rutherford (*red*)

Carolyn Rutherford

by Scott Peterson and Candace Rutherford (*pink*)

Mr. Kenneth Stewart

by Richard & Susan Bell (*white*)

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Bell by Richard & Susan Bell (*white*)

John & Tillie Wine

by Debbie & Ed Wine and family (*red*)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

In Memory of



Dr. Joseph Cain

by Debbie & Ed Wine and family (*red*)

Ken Dunster by Nancylee D. Moore (*red*)

Beatrice Dunster by Nancylee D. Moore (*red*)

Ken Dunster, Jr. by Nancylee D. Moore (*red*)

Dan & Becky by Jan Eppleman (*white*)

Joseph & Marie Davison

by Dr. J. Fred & Dottie Davison (*pink*)

Gail Ruccolo by Dr. J. Fred & Dottie Davison (*pink*)

William Koser

by Dr. J. Fred & Dottie Davison (*pink*)

My brother, Dr. Mark E. Faith

by Kathryn Greene (*red*)

My parents, Clinton & Elizabeth Schnebly

by Michael Schnebly (*red*)

Shirley Rae Cook by Robert Cook (*red*)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

In Honor of



Ami Myers by David Durff (*pink*)

Racheal Marconi & Chris Bowman
by Cindy & Keith Marconi (*red*)

Ryan Marconi & Briane Luger
by Cindy & Keith Marconi (*red*)

The Larew Family by Michael Schnebly (*red*)

Susan S. Bell, Retired Parish Nurse
by Michael Schnebly (*red*)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Marna Yingling	Mary Buhl	Tracey Hammond and family
Becky Hess	Kim Hay	Bethany Yeager
June Marshall	Cullen Gaston	Penny Mohler
Nancy McIntyre	Bob & Sandy Seidel	Dot Wilson
Herb Layton	The Gagne family	Cathy Thomas
Bernice Walck	Bill & Kathy Kendall	Dominic Frampton
Patti Sechrist	Dan Amato	Bobbi Biesecker
Alan Shope	Aaron Frick	Sue Lum
Tim Walck	Ray Spitz	Jan Shafer
Mary Lou Riddle	Sue Angle	Rowan Stotler
Steven Bishop	Rev. Bill Beck	Jerry Tarr
Mindy Grosh	Caroline Robinson	Cora Crider
Michael Paylor	Dian Bishop	Jane Everetts
Linda Pittman	Dan Patton	Laura
Rachael, Christopher & Anna Lee Massieu	Vasilija Milanovic	