

In response to God's love and grace, through Jesus Christ,
we commit to learning, proclaiming, and living the love of God.



**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

First Sunday of Advent



**The Order of Worship for December 1, 2024
10:00 am Worship Service**

HOPE LOVE JOY PEACE

* Please stand as able

Centering Thought

*“Every time we open our mouths and speak,
we are either saying let there be light
or let there be darkness.”*

– Glennon Doyle Melton

Welcome and Brief Announcements

The Prelude *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul Manz, arr. Philip Brunelle

Kaylynn Leap, *clarinet* Barry Leap, *organ*

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Ruth Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

*The Call to Worship

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming.

People: We wait filled with hope,

Leader: Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.

People: We wait anticipating your peace,

Leader: Believing that one day it will fill our world.

People: We wait embracing your love,

Leader: In expectation of your birth.

People: Lord we wait; come soon— fill us with your life.

*Hymn #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Leader: Soon, we will be celebrating the birth of Christ, so let us take time to restore our souls, and refresh our spirits.

All: Restore us, O God, let your face shine that we may be saved. Though we are complicit in the frenzy of consumerism, the unreality of expectations, the tension of gift giving, and the pressure to attend gatherings, restore us, O God. Let your face shine that we may be saved. Though we would like to be more Christ-centered in our daily lives, we know we can turn to God, and be restored. So, we ask: restore us, O God, let your face shine that we may be saved. Amen.
(Silent prayers)

*The Assurance of Peace

Leader: Friends! Believe the Good News! By the merits of Jesus, we are forgiven and restored in God's everlasting love and favor.

All: Thanks be to God!

*The Gloria #583 *Gloria, Gloria*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lighting of the First Candle of Advent

Reader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer. We light this candle in hope...

Hear God's promise of hope from Isaiah 2:2-4:

"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. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain to 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. 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 any nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Let us pray:

All: Faithful God, out of war's chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ's advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

Solo *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Mark Hayes
Marisabel Cordova, soprano Greg Strine, piano

The Children's Time with Their Pastor

The Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. Amen.

The First Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*The Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: Thanks Be to God!

The Message

The Pastoral Prayer

*The Doxology #606

The Dedication of our Offerings

*The Passing of the Peace

Communion Hymn #501 *Feed Us Lord*

The Service of Holy Communion

Pastor: The dawn of hope rests on the horizon and beams of love reaches our doubting hearts. We celebrate the newness of this season- waiting to see how the Christ will appear in our world. Even in our despair, a glimmer of hope reaches into our twilight---beckoning us to breathe and wait.

Our story tells us that the Christ child, whose birth we anticipate, will one day sit at tables with strangers and friends, building relationships filled with love and grace.

We see this as he fed the multitude, turned water into wine, and ate with dear ones the night before his death. He took the bread, blessed it, and broke it. "Eat in remembrance of me," he said.

He took the cup, and in his blessing reminded them that when they sipped from the fruit of the vine to drink in remembrance of him. Jesus. The Christ. Emmanuel – God with us. Light of the World. The Word of Life. No matter how we know him or what name we call him, He is our hope, our peace, our joy, and our love.

May the Spirit bless us and these elements as we commune to remember him and experience his presence among us even now. Amen,.

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

The Breaking of the Bread & The Giving of the Cup

[We share Holy Communion in the pew. The ushers will serve those on the aisle and then you in turn are to serve your neighbor and they serve you. Hold each element until all are served]

The Prayer After Holy Communion (Unison)

For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body, for hope that we begin to see, and for comfort from the Prince of Peace, we share our gratitude, Gracious God. Encourage us in these shortened days and through the long nights of this season. May your hope carry us until dawn arrives again. Amen.

*Antiphon #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verses 1 & 2)

*The Blessing

The Postlude *From Bethlehem*
Greg Strine, *piano*

Phyllis Wolfe

From Bethlehem, you could hear them ring the chime.
The Son of God to us is born!
Sing, "Peace on earth", it's Christmas morn!
Love knows no place or no time.

Sing "Alleluia!" Sing all the praise you know,
not just at Christmas; time and place, love doesn't know.
Sing "Alleluia", from the castles and from the humblest home.
"Alleluia", Merry Christmas! Love has come.

REFRAIN: From Bethlehem, and far beyond Jerusalem,
love came down to grace the earth.
Love is Christ of manger birth.
Love knows no place or no time.

O Antiphons

The beloved carol "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is based on the "O Antiphons" that were sung at vespers during the week before Christmas. Their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne (768-814). Set to an ancient plainchant, both text and tune are the fruits of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

Please join us for
Coffee & Fellowship
in the Social Room
after Worship.
All Are Welcome!



Hosted by Special Events – Kim, Jan & Becky

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sue Angle	Penny Mohler
Rev. Bill Beck	David Myers
Dian Bishop	Dan Patton
Steven Bishop	Michael Paylor
Mary Buhl	Linda Pittman
Leona Cain	George Price
Jon Davis	Beth R
Jane Everetts	Tim Reed
Dominic Frampton	Marvin & Nancy Rice
Aaron Frick	Mary Lou Riddle
The Gagne family	Colin Rinker
Cullen Gaston	Caroline Robinson
Mindy Grosh	Tiffany Robinson
Gail Guyton	Patti Sechrist
The Hammond family	Bob & Sandy Seidel
Archer Hohl	Alan Shope
Bill Horst	Skylar Sites
Bill & Kathy Kendall	Sally Snyder
Cameron Kingsley	Ray Spitz
Lynne Leap	Mary Steel
Cheryl Luger	Rowan Stotler
Sue Lum	Becky Sucke
June Marshall	Cathy Thomas
Rachael, Christopher & Anna Lee Massieu	Frank & Tracey Toston
Liz McCarty	Virginia Vallillo
Nancy McIntyre	Tim Walck
Sandra Meadows	Chelsea White
Vasilija Milanovic	Dot Wilson
	Bethany Yeager

Please pray for the family of **Becky Hess** who went to be with our Lord on Sunday, November 24, 2024.

Good and gracious God, we surrender all worries and concerns to you, knowing that we are your beloved children. Our faith requires we rest in your infinite mercies.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Saturday 11/30	10:00 am	Decorate the Sanctuary
Sunday 12/1	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion
	Coffee & Fellowship / First Sunday Food Drive	
	6:00 pm	Youth Group Confirmation Class
Tuesday 12/3	9:30 am	GACWF Morning of Christmas Music
	6:30 pm	Christian Ed Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Wednesday 12/4	9:00 am	Wednesday Prayer Circle
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
	7:00 pm	Ladies AA Meeting
Thursday 12/5	6:00 pm	Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry
Friday 12/6	5:30 pm	Heritage Christmas in the Square
Saturday 12/7	9:00 am	Fall Clean-up at Moss Spring
Sunday 12/8	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	10:00 am	Worship / Coffee & Fellowship
	5:00 pm	Advent Potluck and Concert

Our Sincerest Thanks...

To Jim and Keri Papa and family and the many volunteers who served our Community Thanksgiving dinner this past week.

We recognize that it takes many hands and good leadership--which is in abundance for this project and at GPC every day. Our community recognizes the great blessing this project--now in its sixth year-- has been to so many. Our office has received many notes and calls of appreciation from folks who are alone or shut-in; from families who could not afford a big Thanksgiving dinner and even from folks who just are grateful for this outreach and have donated generously to keep it going.



Well done, good and blessed servants of Christ!

PREPARE THE WAY ISAIAH 40 THE PERFECT GIFT QUESTIONS?

The prophet Isaiah gives those listening to him a very particular task to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, the person we know as Jesus. Isaiah proclaims that to prepare the way is to make highways easily navigable, fill in valleys, flatten hills, level the ground, make the earth smooth. Then, and only then, will God's glory be revealed, and this will cause all humanity to see that God has spoken to us. Your gifts to the **Christmas Joy Offering** combine with gifts from thousands of congregations throughout our denomination to do our part to repair the world and to ensure our siblings have the tools they need to flourish. Your gifts prepare the way for the God we know in Jesus Christ, the child whose birth we celebrate.

2025 PER CAPITA for the Carlisle Presbytery churches is \$34.04.

HERITAGE CHRISTMAS

GPC Mission/Outreach Committee will be participating in Heritage Christmas on the Square the first two Fridays in December – 6 & 13. They will pass out hot cider & popcorn.



YOU ARE INVITED! Join our congregation on Sunday evening, December 8 for our annual Advent Potluck Dinner starting at 5 PM... followed by a public holiday concert from the Penn State Mont Alto Chorale beginning at 7 PM.

The evening will end with a complimentary Ice Cream Social featuring Penn State Berkey Creamery ice cream.

The 15 voice choral ensemble, along with some of their families, will be joining our church family at the potluck dinner. The evening presents a combination of tasty food, terrific, holiday music, and wonderful community outreach for our church. Please plan to join us on December 8!

CAROLING, COCCO, & COOKIES Sunday, December 15

We'll meet at the church at 5:45 pm, go caroling around town until 7, then return to church for some cookies and cocoa. Rain date is 12/14.

OLD HOME WEEK IS COMING.....August 2-9, 2025!

Greencastle Presbyterian Church has been involved in this special week for many years and hope to be so in 2025 also!

An organizational meeting will be held Monday, December 9th at 6:30 pm in the Social Room.

If you would like to be a part of the committee contact Mary Ann Ackerman (240-527-5516) or Debbie Wine (717-360-2142).

GPC STAFF

- Rev. Dr. Robert Cook..... Interim Pastor
- Dr. J. Frederick Davison..... Director of Music Ministry
- Keri Papa Acting Director of CE
- Susan Miller..... Office Manager
- Bonnie Speaks Finance Manager
- Ryan Hock..... Custodian
- Debbie Hock..... Custodian
- Bryan Larew Groundskeeper
- Jan Eppleman Presbyterian Women
- Barbara & Paul Grane G-A Food Pantry Coordinators

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2025

- Anne Larew Worship
- David Lindecamp..... Property & Maintenance
- Ed Wine Personnel

Class of 2026

- Racheal Marconi Bowman Christian Education
- Scott Peterson..... Outreach / Mission
- Jenn Robertson Clerk of Session

Class of 2027

- Joanne Lewis Finance
- Carole Malin..... Worship
- Dee Patton Special Events

BOARD OF DEACONS

- Class of 2025** Brian Rice, Deb Shank
- Class of 2026** Ben Herrmann, Kelly Kerstetter, Candace Rutherford
- Class of 2027** Polly Coulter, Debra Miller, Virginia Vallillo

Greencastle Presbyterian Church

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 PM – Family Worship Service

7:00 PM – Candlelight Worship Service with Communion



GREENCASTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

57 West Baltimore Street, Greencastle, PA 17225

717-597-8333 | gpc.office17225@gmail.com

www.visitGPCpa.org

SERVING THE CHURCH

Preaching..... Rev. Dr. Robert Cook
LiturgistChloe Kingsley
Musicians Dr. J. Frederick Davison, Greg Strine
Kaylynn Leap, Barry Leap, Marisabel Cordova
AcolyteNate Herrmann
Sunday School & Nursery..... Erin Herrmann, Sue Bell
Audio/Video Tech..... Ben Herrmann
Closer..... Paul Sauder

CHANCEL CHOIR

Randall Ackerman, Margery Benson, Bobbi Biesecker, Becky Fic,
Barb Grane, Donna Grosh, Brian Keck, Barry Leap, Patsy Lee,
JoAnne Lewis, Tom Thomas, Rebecca Wertime, Dot Wilson

BELL CHOIR

Mary Ann Ackerman, Fred Davison, Brian Keck, Barry Leap,
Kaylynn Leap, Liam Papa, Dee Patton, Dorthalee Wilson