

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



## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*



**The Order of Worship for December 22, 2024**  
**10:00 am Worship Service**

**HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE**

\* Please stand as able

## Centering Thought

*May the forgiving spirit of Him to whom  
we dedicate this season prevail again on earth. . .*

*May hunger disappear and terrorists cease  
their senseless acts. . .*

*May people live in freedom, worshipping  
as they see fit, loving others. . .*

*May the sanctity of the home be ever preserved. . .*

*May peace, everlasting peace, reign supreme.*

## Welcome and Brief Announcements

The Prelude *Advent Hope*

Derek K. Hakes

GPC Bell Choir

## \*The Call to Worship

Leader: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

**People: And our spirits rejoice in you.**

Leader: We will praise you as long as we live.

**People: We will sing praises to you our whole lives  
long.**

Leader: We will not trust in the powerful of this world,

**People: But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and  
earth,**

Leader: The One who gives food to the hungry,

**People: The One who enacts justice for the oppressed.**

Leader: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

**People: As we worship you in this place, may your  
hope, peace, joy and love wash over us with healing  
grace.**

\*Hymn #93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

\*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Jesus, Light of the World, you came to seek and to save the lost and release the captives. We don't realize how lost we once were, nor how enslaved we were to sin. We were overwhelmed by the powers of darkness, separated from your love, and awaiting the sting of death. Yet because you love us, you made yourself nothing, to save us from our sins. Forgive us for not receiving you, the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. We have taken your sacrifice for granted, and we have spurned your love even though you are worthy of all our love. Deliver us, Emmanuel. Come to our hearts, Jesus, for there is room in our hearts for you. Amen.**

\*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 Fourth Candle of Advent

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

Out of love for the people of God, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah, as found in the seventh chapter, verses 10-14:

***“The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ‘Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.’ Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.’”***

Let us pray:

**All: God of Hope, Prince of Peace, Jubilee Judge, and Lord of Love, your goodness is beyond our imaginings. You give us more than we can think to ask, coming to us with impossible possibility in the union of flesh and spirit. Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.**

Carol #97 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

The Children’s Time with Their Pastor

The Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

**Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept you Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The First Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5

Anthem *O Dayspring*

Karen Marriolli

Kaylynn Leap, *clarinet*

\*The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:49-55

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord!

**All: Thanks Be to God!**

## The Message

Response to the Word (Unison)

**Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior, for he looks with favor upon us and sees our unrealized potential. In the tradition of Mary, and all who have said “yes” to God, we stand here today, to add our assent to theirs.**

**Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed; we wonder if we are worthy, or capable, of following the calling. Like Mary, we have our questions and we will not be afraid to ask them. Like Mary, we will hear and ponder the assurance that God will empower us.**

**Like Mary we will strive to say - “Let it be with us according to your will.” To whatever God is inviting of us at this time in our lives, and relying on God’s grace, we say Yes and Amen!**

Solo *Advent Hymn*

Christy Nockels

Fred Davison, *baritone*

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer Unison)

\*The Doxology #606

The Dedication of our Offerings

\*Antiphon #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verses 1 & 7)

\*The Blessing

The Postlude

*Christmastime with Angels We Have Heard on High*

M.W. Smith, traditional, arr. L. Larson

Brenda Slick, *piano*

## 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.

**O Wisdom** – from Isaiah 11:2-3

**O Lord and Ruler** – 11:4-5 and 33:22

**O Root of Jesse** – 11:1

**O Key of David** – 22:22

**O Rising Sun** – 9:1

**O King of the Nations** – 2:4

**O' Emmanuel** (O God with Us) – 7:14

*Come,  
Lord Jesus*



*Please join us for Coffee & Fellowship  
in the Social Room after Worship.*

*All Are Welcome!*

*Hosted by JoAnne & Sofiya*

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### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sunday 12/22**    FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**10:00 am**    **Worship** / Coffee & Fellowship

*Prayers for Synod Staff and Church Treasurers*

**Tuesday 12/24**    CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 pm    Family-Friendly Worship

6:45 pm    Traditional Candlelight Worship

**Wednesday 12/25**    CHRISTMAS DAY

**Thursday 12/26**    Church Office Closed

**Sunday 12/22**    FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

**10:00 am**    **Worship** / Coffee & Fellowship

*Prayers for Carlisle Presbytery Staff*

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Remember in prayer the family of **Skylar Sites**, who passed away Friday, December 13, 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.*

## Welcoming Our Visitors on Christmas Eve

We are privileged to receive visitors to our Sunday morning services several times each month. Sharing hospitality is such a wonderful gift as it makes our visitors feel at home and very welcome. Christmas Eve services are important times for us to go the extra mile with hospitality. The Christmas Story is the story of unexpected guests and strangers coming together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This continues every Christmas Eve. So, here are a few suggested ways to help our visitors feel welcome

1. Be aware of guests and visitors. They may never have been in the church before. You can reach out, welcome them and help them find a seat. You can point out where the nursery is and the location of restrooms. Offer a welcome brochure and a visitor's card as well.
2. Don't forget to extend a welcome and "*Merry Christmas*" greeting to anyone in the pews you may not know. You may even want to offer to introduce them to the Pastor after worship, though only if the guest feels comfortable with this.
3. Use the time before and after worship to be hospitable. Because of the high turnout and Christmas atmosphere regular attendees may spend more time talking and socializing together prior to or following the service. This can be a very lonely time for first-time guests who might have come by themselves. As congregants are chatting with friends and family, they should also make a point of introducing themselves and sharing Christmas cheer with new faces. Remember that while this service might be highlight of the year for church members, for guests it might be the only service they attend all year.
4. During Holy Communion, be sure to remind everyone that God's table is open to all and that all are invited to partake whether they are long-term members or first-time guests.
5. Encourage them to come back for Sunday worship services and be sure to invite them to Coffee & Fellowship.



You are invited to  
Our Family-Friendly  
Candlelight Worship Service



The Nativity

Christmas Eve, December 24 at 4:30 pm  
Greencastle Presbyterian Church  
57 West Baltimore Street, Greencastle, PA

CHILD CENTERED ★ INTERACTIVE ★ CHRISTMAS CAROLS

O Come Let Us Adore Him

GREENCASTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please join our

TRADITIONAL  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24

Musical prelude begins at 6:45 pm

Worship with Communion at 7:00 pm

*The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,  
and we beheld his glory, the glory as of  
the only begotten of the Father,  
full of grace and truth. —John 1:14*





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

*With caring Honor to*

*Our grandson, **Otis Bell** by Susan & Richard Bell (red)*

**The entire fantastic staff of GPC!** (11 people)

by Kathryn & Bill Greene (red)

<i>Rev. Dr. Robert Cook</i>	<i>Bonnie Speaks</i>	<i>Jan Eppleman</i>
<i>Dr. J. Frederick Davison</i>	<i>Bryan Larew</i>	<i>Barbara Grane</i>
<i>Susan Miller</i>	<i>Debbie Hock</i>	<i>Paul Grane</i>
<i>Keri Papa</i>	<i>Ryan Hock</i>	

**The victims of Hurricane Helene**

by Carole L. Malin & David Rutherford (pink)

**Our family, we love you!**

by Scott, Rhiannon, and Candace Rutherford Peterson (white)

**Jessye Ritter** by Linda Tarr (red)

**Chris & Racheal Bowman**

by Keith & Cindy Marconi (red)

**Ryan & Brianne Marconi**

by Keith & Cindy Marconi (red)

**The Birth of Jesus** by Rebecca Wertime (pink)

**Michol & Mitchell Austin**

**Lucien & Alexander Austin**

by Anthony & Virginia Vallillo (red)



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

*In loving Memory of*

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

**Dr. Joseph Cain** by Ed & Debbie Wine and family (*red*)

**Tom & Josephine Stouffer** by Jeff Stouffer (*white*)

**Dr. Don & Treva Luck** by Jeff Stouffer (*white*)

*My wife, Melissa Wills* by Steven Wills (*red*)

**Daniel M. Sachs** by Jan S. Eppleman (*red*)

**Becky Sachs Mackey** by Jan S. Eppleman (*red*)

**Robert & Dixie Davis** by Terry & Lynn Davis (*pink*)

**Shirley Cook** by Terry & Lynn Davis (*red*)

**Russell Everetts** by Jane Everetts (*red*)

*Kathryn's parents, Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Faith*

by Kathryn & Bill Greene (*red*)

*Kathryn's brother, Dr. Mark E. Faith*

by Kathryn & Bill Greene (*red*)

*My parents, Arthur & Mary Long* by Carole L. Malin (*pink*)

**Pete Peterson, Husband, Dad, Pappy**

by Scott, Rhiannon, and Candace Rutherford Peterson (*red*)

**Carolyn Rutherford, Mom & Grandma**

by Scott, Rhiannon, and Candace Rutherford Peterson (*pink*)

**All our family who await us in Heaven**

by Fred & Debbie Young (*red*)

*Our parents, George & Shirley Price and  
Harry & Maxine Morris*

by George & Pamela Price (*red*)

**Kathryn Welterlen Rees** by Judith & Craig Welterlen (*red*)

**Roy & Maria Welterlen** by Judith & Craig Welterlen (*white*)

**Hubert & Ruth Williams** by Judith & Craig Welterlen (*red*)

*My mother, Beatrice Dunster* by Nancy Lee D. Moore (*red*)

*My father, Ken Dunster* by Nancy Lee D. Moore (*red*)

*My brother, Ken Dunster, Jr.* by Nancy Lee D. Moore (*red*)

**Michael Sean Austin** by Anthony & Virginia Vallillo (*white*)

## SERVING THE CHURCH

Preaching..... Rev. Dr. Robert Cook  
Liturgist..... Nate Herrmann  
Musicians..... Dr. J. Frederick Davison, Brenda Slick  
Acolyte.....  
Sunday School & Nursery..... Sue Bell, Racheal Bowman  
Audio/Video Tech..... Ben Herrmann  
Closer..... Paul Sauder

### BELL CHOIR

Patti Divelbiss, *Conductor*

Mary Ann Ackerman, Fred Davison, Brian Keck,  
Kelly Kerstetter, Barry Leap, Liam Papa, Dee Patton, Dot Wilson

### 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