

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



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Order of Worship for December 29, 2024

10:00 am Worship Service

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

SERVING THE CHURCH

Preaching.....Rev. Dr. Robert Cook, Julia Herrmann
LiturgistAnne Larew
MusiciansDr. J. Frederick Davison, Brenda Slick
Acolyte
Sunday School & Nursery..... Erin Herrmann
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

* *Please stand as able*

Centering Thought

Jesus and family are displaced persons seeking a place to live.

Welcome and Brief Announcements

The Prelude *Mary Did You Know*

Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene, arr. Lloyd Larson
Brenda Slick, *piano*

*The Call to Worship

Leader: A new day has dawned; a new year will soon begin!

People: We give thanks for new opportunities and fresh starts.

Leader: The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future.

People: O Lord, keep us in your ways and on your path.

Leader: We enter this new year with hope and anticipation.

All: O Lord, remind us that you lead us; guide us as look to you in the days to come, and guide us now in this time of worship, as we sing praise to the One whose birth brings newness of life to all

*Carol *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

#143

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God of all creation and holy creativity, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you on the brink of a new year, with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you

forgive and transform all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we offer our thanksgiving and praise, and our desire to trust you more. Amen. (*Silent prayers of personal confession*)

*The Assurance of Pardon and Peace with God

Leader: Beloved of God, in Christ God covers us with the robe of righteousness. Know that you are forgiven and claimed as God's own. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Praise God!

*The Gloria #583 *Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

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

The Children's Time with Their Pastor

Favorite Christmas Carols

The Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

Lord Jesus Christ, you came to our world bring light and life. You are Light and you are the way, the truth and the life. Evermore open us to the light of your Word so that we may faithfully hear and follow you. Amen.

*The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

The Message

-Julia Herrmann

Response to the Word (unison)

Solo *O Come, All Ye Unfaithful*
Fred Davison, *baritone*

Lisa Clow and Bob Kaufflin
Brenda Slick, *piano*

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

*The Doxology #606

*The Dedication of Our Offerings

*Carol #134 *Joy to the World*

*The Blessing

Postlude *Go Tell it on the Mountain* traditional, arr. Mark Hayes
Brenda Slick, piano



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

*Hosted by Debra & Albert Miller
Jennifer Miller Smith
Laiken, Aubrey, and Reagan*

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday 12/29 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
10:00 am **Worship** / Coffee & Fellowship
Prayers for Carlisle Presbytery Staff

Tuesday 12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Wednesday 1/1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

Thursday 1/2 Church Office Closed
6:00 pm Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry

Sunday 1/5 SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
10:00 am **Worship** with Communion
Coffee Fellowship / First Sunday Food Drive
Prayers for Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

Monday 1/6 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

PRAYER CONCERNS

June Marshall	Sandra Meadows
Patti Sechrist	Frank & Tracey Toston
Alan Shope	Archer Hohl
Tim Walck	Leona Cain
Mary Lou Riddle	Sally Snyder
Mindy Grosh	Chelsea White
Michael Paylor	Tim Reed
Mary Buhl	Lynne Leap
Cullen Gaston	Gail Guyton
Bob & Sandy Seidel	Cheryl Luger
Bill & Kathy Kendall	Marvin & Nancy Rice
Aaron Frick	Jon Davis
Ray Spitz	David Myers
Rev. Bill Beck	Liz McCarty
Dan Patton	Cameron Kingsley
Bethany Yeager	Virginia Vallillo
Penny Mohler	Frank Marconi
Cathy Thomas	Robin Wingert
Sue Lum	Kenny Reed
Rowan Stotler	Todd Smith



We share our sympathy with Cindy Marconi,
whose father, **Bill Horst** recently went to be with the Lord.

*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.*

Becoming a Member at GPC

The membership statement of the Presbyterian Church (USA) reads: *“Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ’s mission. A faithful member bears witness to God’s love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church.”*

Church member is an act of faith, a public witness of your trust in Christ and a way of living out your faith in service within the congregation and out in the larger community. The only pre-requisite for joining *any* PC(U.S.A.) congregation is confessing your faith in Jesus Christ. Our goals for the Membership Class are to increase our awareness and understanding of:

- **The central beliefs of the Christian faith in the Reformed tradition**
- **The Vision of the Greencastle Presbyterian Church**
- **How the Presbyterian Church is a democratically organized Church**



The class provides opportunities for:

- **Making or deepening your commitment to Jesus Christ**
- **Making friends within the class and within the congregation**
- **Making commitment to specific connections with the church where your spiritual gifts can make a difference.**

We invite you to be part of the Greencastle Presbyterian Church! As you become a member of this fellowship, we trust that God has brought us together, and that we are a help and a benefit to each other as we seek to follow Jesus Christ. There are three ways to become a member:

1. Make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and, if you have not been previously baptized, be baptized.
2. Join by a transfer of your church membership from a church where you are currently a member.
3. Reaffirm your faith, if you have been previously baptized and have made a public profession of faith.

New Member Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Dates to Remember (Birthdays, Anniversaries):

Baptized? Yes No *When & where? _____

Are you currently a member of another church? Yes No

*If so, where? We will take care of transferring your membership.

If you have children at home, what are their names and birthdays?

Are your children baptized? *If so, when & where?

Is there anything else you would like for us to know?

**Specific information is helpful but not required*

EPIPHANY is the celebration of God’s manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God’s promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God’s covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God’s self-revelation in Christ.

An excerpt from the [Companion to the Book of Common Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2003, 94-95)

The word “epiphany” (from the Greek *epiphaneia* or *theophaneia*) means “appearance” or “manifestation” of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. The Christmas stories of the birth of Immanuel declare the divine entry; Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness. ...

Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God’s true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God’s gift of grace and salvation for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas.



A painting of the adoration of the Magi by Spanish painter Luis Tristán de Escamilla (1586-1624).