



GREENCASTLE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

The 4th Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 21, 2025
10:00 AM



* Please stand as able

Centering Thought

*May starlight guide your steps towards this place of wonder,
may angels sing their news as you travel to the manger,
may promise fill these days as we watch at the edge of birth,
and may faith tell you Emmanuel will be with us soon.*

– Roddy Hamilton

Welcome and Brief Announcements

The Prelude *What Child Is This?* Traditional English
Liam Papa, *piano*

*The Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord reigns over all the earth.

People: Let the earth rejoice and let the coastlands be glad.

Leader: Righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.

People: The heavens proclaim God's righteousness.

Leader: All the people of the earth see God's glory.

People: Anyone who worships idols will be put to shame.

Leader: For the Lord is high over all creation --exalted above all.

People: Light dawns on those who seek the righteous way and fills our hearts with joy.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord together!

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

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this dark world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the One you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.

Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light, so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Amen. (*Silent prayer*)

*The Assurance of Pardon and Peace with God

Leader: Friends! Believe the Good News! By the merits of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live a new life!

All: Thanks be to God!

*The Gloria #583 *Gloria, Gloria*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, Alleluia!

The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

All: O God, could this be the Advent when we notice that inbreaking of your coming promises? Promises full of blessing: of truth, so clear and bright that every shadowy lie must flee away; of compassion so deep and strong that everyone is encircled in its embrace; of restoration so complete and beautiful that there is gladness everywhere; and of justice so satisfying and right that all will be well. May this Advent be the new beginning, as we learn to live by the light of your coming promises. Amen.

Candle Carol #85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*
(vs. 4)

The Children's Time with Their Pastor

The Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

O Lord, on this fourth Sunday in Advent, we pray that your light would pour over these pages and illumine these old, old words — that they would dance with newness in our hearts and minds, that we would be radiant in reflecting your Word in our living and serving one another. Amen.

The First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

The Anthem

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

Lloyd Larson

*The Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: thanks be to God!

The Message

-Pastor Robert Cook

*Response to God's 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 live this Advent 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. (D. Berrigan, S.J.)

*Hymn #100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*
(vs. 1 & 2)

Joys, Cares and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

*The Doxology #606

*The Dedication of Our Tithes and Our Lives

*Advent Carol #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1 & 7)

*The Blessing

Postlude *Fum, Fum, Fum* Spanish Carol arr. Larry Shackley
Brenda Slick, *piano*

SERVING THE CHURCH

Preaching..... Rev. Dr. Robert Cook

Liturgist..... Julia Mills

Musicians..... Dr. J. Frederick Davison,
Liam Papa, Brenda Slick

Acolyte.....

Sunday School Teachers..... Racheal Marconi, Sue Thompson

Audio Video Tech Ami Myers

Closer..... Paul Sauder

PRAYER CONCERNS

June Marshall	Donna Bingaman
Patti Sechrist	Jason Kinzer
Alan Shope	Emmie White
Tim Walck	Terri Brust
Mindy Grosh	Helen Taulbee
Michael Paylor	David Pickart
Kathy Kendall	Greg Harmon
Dan Patton	Bonnie Speaks
Bethany Yeager	Cindy Widder
Penny Mohler	Donna & Sarah Stillwagon
Cathy Thomas	Carla Vickers
Sue Lum	Kevin Taulbee
Frank & Tracey Toston	Brandon Fisher
Sally Snyder	Jan Eppleman
Chelsea White	Cora Crider
Tim Reed	Kim Tartaglia
Lynne Leap	Bill Heacox
Gail Guyton	Lynn Anne Robertson Smith
Marvin & Nancy Rice	Missy Benson
David Myers	Joyce Baker
Kenny Reed	Mary Bennet & Family
Todd Smith	Dave Wilson
John Stanton	Amanda Lain
Leslie Moose	Doug & Gladys Grane & family

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. - Philippians 4:5

This prayer list reflects our love and support for our church family. Please submit or review names on the list to balance healing requests with general community/member prayers. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Joy Offering

- 10:00 am **Worship** followed by Coffee Fellowship
Prayers for General Assembly Staff and Church Administrators
5:45 pm Caroling, Cookies, & Cocoa

Monday, December 22

- 6:00 pm Brass Trio Rehearsal
6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

- 4:30 pm Family-Friendly Candlelight Worship Service
6:45 pm Musical Prelude
7:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Communion

Thursday, December 25 Christmas / The Nativity of Our Lord

Sunday, December 28 First Sunday of Christmas

- 10:00 am **Worship** followed by Coffee Fellowship
Prayers for Synod Staff and Church Treasurers

OTHER HOLIDAY SCHEDULING:

No Bell Choir or Chancel Choir rehearsals on Wed., December 31

Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry will be open Thursday, January 8 from 6:00-8:00 pm instead of January 1

Please join the Deacons for coffee, refreshments and fellowship in the Social Room after Worship. All Are Welcome

