

**McKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WORSHIP SERVICE**

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

THE GATHERING
WE ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Faye D'Ippolito, Organist

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP - Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Please welcome the children to the front of the sanctuary by singing, "Jesus Loves the Little Children".

(L) This morning we light the PEACE candle remembering that our lives are NOT meant to be marked by anxiety, conflict, and fear. We remember, instead, the words of Jesus Christ:

(C) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14)

(L) We light the PEACE candle - remembering that we DO NOT have to accept the inhumanity, discrimination, violence, hatred, division, and war that rages all around us. We remember, instead:

(C) In Christ you may have peace. In this world there will be trouble but take heart! Christ has overcome the world." (John 16)

(L) We light the PEACE candle - remembering that we ARE NOT to accept the inhumanity, discrimination, violence, hatred, division, and war that rages all around us. We remember, instead:

(C) We are to live in harmony with one another, not to repay anyone evil for evil and, whenever possible, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12)

(L) We light the 2nd candle - the candle of PEACE – to declare that where there is war, where there is fighting, where there is conflict – whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts - God is ALWAYS coming, offering us God's PEACE and compelling us to share it with others.

(C) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Matt.5)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

***HYMN**

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

No. 22, blue

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION: [Psalm 25]**

God of mercy and steadfast love,

We turn to You, be gracious to us.

We are lonely and afflicted, our hearts are troubled.

Consider our affliction and trouble

and forgive all of our sins, for they are great.

[Personal Confession]

To You, our Lord, I lift my soul ...

In You, my God, I trust ...

* WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear [and see] the Good News. According to God's steadfast LOVE and Mercy, in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven, once and for all - they are remembered no more!

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 813, brown

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

JOYS

Leader: "For _(joy)_, Gracious God ..."

All "we give you thanks."

CONCERNS

Leader: "For _(concern)_, Merciful Lord ..."

All: "hear our prayer."

Let's pray together the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please contact the church by email or phone with your prayer requests during the week.

ANTHEM

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Chancel Choir

Arr. Wickham and Pettman

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 6: 7-13 and Matthew 18: 21-35

Matthew 6: 7-13

⁷ 'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ 'Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² **And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

¹³ And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

Matthew 18: 21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

SERMON

"Lord's Prayer #4-Forgive us Lord"

Rev., Michael Stanton

THE RESPONSE

WE COMMIT TO THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY

Faye D'Ippolito, Organist

***DOXOLOGY**

***HYMN**

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

No. 37, blue

THE EXIT

WE ENGAGE THE WORLD OF GOD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Faye D'Ippolito, Organist

**All those who are able, please stand"*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 10, 2023

A TIME OF CAROLING:

Come join us for lunch and a Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long immediately following the worship service this Sunday.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE, please contact the church office.

TAKE CARE, THE FLU AND COLD SEASON HAS STARTED:

Please help keep everyone healthy. If you have a cold or flu, please utilize the masks available at the entrances. We all thank you.

DEACONS:

The Deacons would like to thank the entire congregation for your help with the Giving Tree, the Baskets of Kindness, the Lap Blankets and the Salvation Army ringing of the bells. With your loving kindness and over whelming generosity we have made our community a warmer, healthier and happier place to live. Thank you all again and again.

PER CAPITA:

The 2023 per capita amount is \$35.70 per church member. These funds are sent to the Presbytery and are used by the Presbytery to provide services to local churches. Please make your checks payable to the church and note "per capita" in the memo line.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:

Christmas poinsettias can be ordered in the Chapel after the service or by calling the church office. The deadline is December 17, 2023. The Order forms are in the Chapel and at the entrance of the church. You can also get one at the church office. The cost is \$12.00 each.

PLEDGE CARDS:

Please hand in your 2024 pledge cards **Today**. If you need a card, they are located at the back of the church or you can pick one up at the church office. Thank you.

LAP BLANKETS:

This is the last week to donate a lap blanket. If you have one or two, please give the blanket to Luann Castro, Carol Lasch or Robin in the church office. Thank you for all of your support and many blessings.

BASKETS OF KINDNESS:

The Christmas baskets are in preparation. Please donate Giant Eagle gift cards and/or monetary donations by December 14th. All donations can be given to Luann Castro, Carol Lasch or left at the church office. We will be delivering to the families in need during the week of December 16th. We are grateful to the congregation for all of your heartfelt help.

HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES AND SOCKS:

We have been collecting hats, scarves, gloves and socks in all sizes, to just give out to our community as needed for the winter. If you have any extra of these items please drop them off at the church office. Thank you.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a short Special Congregational Meeting after service on **December 17** to elect Elders, Deacons and other positions for the Class of 2026. Please stick around after church for this important meeting!

MCKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**Pastor-Rev. Michael Stanton****Director of Music-Edward R. Moore****Organists-Candice Holsinger & Millie Kistler****Office/Financial Assistant- Robin Enright****Maintenance Manager -Brock Cochran****412-678-2000****www.mckpres.com****mckeesportpresbyterian@gmail.com**