**McKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

 **WORSHIP SERVICE**

**4th Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023**

**A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE DAY**

**PRELUDE Candice Holsinger, Organist**

 **WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH**

**THE PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP -Lighting of the Advent Candle**

(L) This morning we light the LOVE candle remembering that The One who created Heaven and Earth is LOVE – and created us out of LOVE.

**(C) God Is Love. (1 John 4:16)**

(L) We light the LOVE candle remembering that God became one of us, lived with us, and died for us because of LOVE.

**(C) God so LOVED the world that He gave his ONLY son. Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)**

(L) God loves us with a LOVE so strong, so complete, so perfect … there is NOTHING for us to fear.

**(C) God’s perfect LOVE casts out fear. (1 John 4:18)**

(L) God loves us with a LOVE so strong, so complete, so perfect … we can FEARLESSLY share it with the world.

**(C) For the entire law is fulfilled in one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Gal. 5)**

(L) We light the 4th candle - the candle of LOVE – inviting you to Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Come into our fears of failure, rejection, loneliness, death. Come, through us, into the fears, brokenness, and despair of the world within which you have planted us …

**(C) Come perfect LOVE, come.**

 **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: Rev. Gary Filson**

**\*HYMN “**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**" No 9, blue**

**LESSONS & CAROLS**

**The Prophets Tell God’s Promise**

**The First Reading of Scripture**  **Isaiah 9: 2-7**

**A Christmas Song**  “The Promise” **(Praise Band)**

**The Second Reading of Scripture** **Isaiah 11: 1-9**

**The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary, and to Joseph**

**The Third Reading of Scripture**  **Luke 1: 26-38**

**A Christmas Song**  “Breath of Heaven” **Sarah Cimador**

**The Fourth Reading of Scripture**  **Matthew 1: 18-25**

**A Christmas Song**  “Joseph’s Song” **Mark Jones**
**The Fifth Reading of Scripture Luke 2: 1-7**

**A Christmas Song** “You’re Here**” (Praise Band)**

**Angels and Shepherds Share Good News**

**The Sixth Reading of Scripture**  **Luke 1:8-20**

 **OFFERTORY

 A Christmas Song** “ Noel” **(Praise Band)**
  **\*DOXOLOGY**  Leader: All who heard the word of the shepherds were amazed at what the shepherds

said to them.

**People: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things**

**they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** "What Child is This?” **No. 53, blue**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE Candice Holsinger, Organist** *\*All those who are able, please stand”*



**ANNOUNCEMENTS December 24, 2023

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK:**Jennifer & Gary Schafer, 8012 Independence Dr. Clairton, PA 15025

**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.

**BIRTHDAYS:**12/28 Will Smith
12/30 Mark Jones
12/31 Felecia Jackson

**DEACONS:**The Deacons would like to thank the entire congregation, once more, 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:**
Poinsettias will be available to pick up after the evening Christmas Eve service.

**HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES AND SOCKS:**

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE:**

Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm.

 **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**

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