

**McKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WORSHIP SERVICE**

1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

THE GATHERING

WE ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

“The Wexford Carol/Oh Come, Emmanuel”

**Millie Kistler, Organist
Arr. Wagner**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

OPENING PRAYER

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Call to Worship:

(L1) Today marks the beginning of the Advent season – a time when we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ - the “True Light” coming into the world. During this season, we light a candle on each of the four weeks leading up to Christmas and we think about the very deep truth that Christ is forever coming into the broken and dark places of our lives and our world.

(L2) This morning we light the candle of HOPE remembering that HOPE is NOT lost – we do NOT have to accept hunger, poverty, addiction, conflict – in our lives or in our world. We Remember instead:

(C) That Jesus Christ has come that we may have life, and life to the fullest! (John 10)

(L2) We light the candle of HOPE - remembering that HOPE is NOT lost - it's NOT too late, your failures are NOT final. We remember instead:

(C) In Christ, we are a new creation. The old has passed away; see everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5)

(L2) We light the candle of HOPE remembering that HOPE is NOT lost - darkness does NOT have the victory – wickedness and evil do NOT have the last word. We remember instead:

(C) That weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30)

(L2) We light this first candle - the candle of HOPE - daring to HOPE – daring to hope for peace, for healing, for change. Daring to HOPE for light to break forth into the darkness.

(C) We wait for the Lord, our souls wait, and in God's sure Promises we HOPE; (Psalm 130)

***HYMN**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

No.10, 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

ANTHEM

"People Look East"

**Chancel Choir
Arr. Farjeon/Shaw**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 8:7-9a. 12-14, 17-18, Matthew 6: 7-13

Deuteronomy 8:7-9a. 12-14, 17-18

"For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing ... When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold has multiplied ... then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery ... Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth. But remember the Lord your God, for it is God who gives you power to get wealth, so that God may confirm the covenant that God swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today."

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.

SERMON

"Lord's Prayer #3-You Can't Feed Yourself"

Rev., Michael Stanton

THE RESPONSE

WE COMMIT TO THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY

"The Lord's Prayer"

Barb McDonough, Soloist

***DOXOLOGY**

***HYMN**

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

No. 2, blue

THE EXIT

WE ENGAGE THE WORLD OF GOD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Come Thou Expected Jesus"

**Millie Kistler, Organist
Arr. Price**

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 3, 2023

FELLOWSHIP II:

Please join us for a time of food and fellowship directly after Sunday's service.

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.

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 by **December 10th**. If you need a card, they are located at the front of the church or you can pick one up at the church office. Thank you.

GIVING TREE:

We appreciate all of your donations. Your unwrapped gift with your tag are due **TODAY**.

PORTABLE GROCERY CARTS:

We need 2 or 3 portable grocery carts to be use each month for the Food Pantry. If you can donate one or more, please let Carol Lasch know or Robin in 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!

BASKETS OF KINDNESS:

The Deacons are preparing our yearly, Christmas baskets. They collect Giant Eagle gift cards and/or monetary donations to provide for families in need during the holidays. We would like to have all the donations in by **December 14th** so that we can deliver by **December 16th**. All donations can be given to Luann Castro, Carol Lasch or left at the Church Office with Robin.

LAP BLANKETS:

Each year at Christmas the Deacons receive donations of lap blankets for the local nursing home and personal care home residents. The residents greatly appreciate the blankets. If you would like to donate a blanket or two, please give to Luann Castro, Carol Lasch, or Robin in the office. Please have your lap blankets, donated by **December, 8th** so that we can take a photo of them in the church and ready them for delivery. We are thankful for all of your support and many blessings.

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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