

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Fathergill Family

Unison Prayer

God, we sometimes have a hard time looking ahead. We worry about what we have forgotten, or what we have done wrong, or what we have not done at all. Help us to let go of the past and look forward, trusting in the new things you are doing all the time. We give you thanks for the joy of this season and for all the ways we can bring joy to others while we wait. Amen.

****Hymn 9**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

****Call to Confession**

****Prayer of Confession**

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

****Assurance of Forgiveness**

****Hymn “Gloria Patri”**

***“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.”***

****The Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share this peace with one another.

Time with Our Youngest Saints

THE WORD

Unison Prayer for Understanding

Holy Word, you are our guide and ultimate assurance. By your Holy Spirit, open us to your promises and commands and shower us again with the wonder of your love. Amen.

The Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 1:18-25

“Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.”

Liturgist: The gospel of the Lord for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Gift of MusicKrista Garrett

Sermon “What Will People Think”

****Hymn 31** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)

“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 debts, as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

****Hymn** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above,
ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” Amen.*

****Prayer of Dedication**

THE SENDING

****Hymn 23** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

****Charge and Blessing**

****Postlude**

****please stand as you are able**

The Call to Worship, the Advent Candle liturgy, and the basis of the sermon are taken from the book “Calling All Angels” by the Reverend Erin Wathen.



First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster

Order of Worship for

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Liturgist: Ms. Addison Comley

Interim Organist—Mr. Jim Parrish

Ushers—Mrs. Amanda Marsee and Mr. Nick Marsee

Pastor—The Reverend Michael Denney

Please silence your phones prior to worship.

THE GATHERING

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

****Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Now the Lord who made you has this to say, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name."

People: We hear the one who calls us by name, but we are still afraid.

Liturgist: May the Spirit of God move in this place: the spirit of faith, not fear; the spirit of looking ahead and not backward.

People: Lord, remind us again that you walk with us, whether we pass through the waters or walk through the fire.

Liturgist: We will not fix our eyes on the former things but point our gaze toward the new miracles that God is working for us!

People: We will look ahead and not be afraid.

****Prayer of the Day**