



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

11:00 AM

RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING VOLUNTARY

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL
SUSSEX CAROL
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

ARR. WALTER BLANTON
ARR. LUTHER HENDERSON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

MUSICAL INTROIT

HOLY, INFANT LOWLY
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

ARR. CHARLES EVAN

* CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Voice 1: Joy is a hand wrapped around yours.

Voice 2: Joy is your heart beating in sync with someone else's heart.

Today we welcome
**The West Virginia
Brass Quintet** to
worship and thank
them for sharing
their talents with
us.

Voice 3: Joy is that first day of the new season, and the intoxicating hope it brings.

Voice 1: Joy is dancing in the kitchen and singing in your car.

Voice 2: Joy is the first cry of a newborn baby.

Voice 3: Joy is a song.

Voice 1: Joy is the daughter of gratitude.

Voice 2: Joy is the heart of praise.

Voice 3: For much of Advent we assume the position of leaning forward, longing for the moment where God will break into this world once more. However, today we stop leaning to remember with gratitude all that God has already done for us, through us, and around us.

Voice 4: Today we light the candle of joy as a thank you for laughter and for hands that hold our own. We light the candle of joy for the change in seasons, for kitchen dance parties, for newborns. And most importantly, we light the candle of joy as a sign of gratitude for a God who makes water in the desert, heals the sick, offers sight to the blind, and who knows us by name.

(The first, second, and third candles are lit.)

* HYMN #100 MY SOUL CRIES OUT WITH A JOYFUL SHOUT "STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Maker, we confess
that we are not ready to meet you.
You send your Spirit to release us,
yet we remain captivated by sin.
You stand among us in Christ Jesus,
yet we claim we do not know you.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Make us holy; make us whole.
Keep us safe and sound
until the day of your coming;
through Jesus Christ our Lord...

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

KYRIE 103 COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE (verse 3) "O-SO-SO"
Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as **Gaudete Sunday** or **Joy Sunday** and is symbolized by the lighting of a pink candle. Gaudete comes from the Latin verb gaudere, meaning "to rejoice". In these otherwise reflective days of preparation for Jesus' birth, it reminds us of the joy that is to come. **This morning Cindy and Elena Corley and Bill, Ann, and Samuel Kellermeyer light the joy candle.**

* RESPONSE #109

BLEST BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL (verse 3)

"MERLE'S TUNE"

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

(Please greet one another with signs of peace.)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 61:1-4; 8-11

PEW BIBLE, OT, P. 650

ANTHEM

ADVENT MESSAGE

MARTIN HOW

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR AND THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus;

Amen, come Lord Jesus.

O come quickly, come Lord, come.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus;

Yea come quickly, come Lord, come.

Amen. Come, Lord come.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:6-8; 19-28

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 86

SERMON

REV. CAROLINE KELLY

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* HYMN #108

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN (Verses 1, 2 and 4 only)

"DIVINUM MYSTERIUM"

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

*(Since our service is broadcast on the radio, please make sure
you have permission to request prayer on behalf of another person.)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

John is the fourth gospel. Its author makes no attempt to give a chronological account of the life of Jesus but writes "...so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." John includes what he calls signs and stories of miracles to help in this process.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

TWO FRENCH CAROLS
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

ARR. RICHARD BROWN

* AT THE PRESENTATION #102 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME (verse 4)

“NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND”

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin’s son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* HYMN #88

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

“VENI EMMANUEL”

Traditionally, the final week of Advent was marked by singing the O Antiphons, messianic titles drawn from scripture which form the basis of the advent hymn **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:** O Wisdom; O Adonai; O Root of Jesse; O Key of David; O Radiant Dawn; O Rule of the nations; O Immanuel. We are singing three today.

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* SUNG BENEDICTION #92 WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME (verse 1)
(Please join hands as we sing together.)

“WAITING” (CASON)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY GLORY TO GOD FROM MESSIAH
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

G. F. HANDEL

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in bold.

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

- Preacher.....Rev. Caroline Kelly
- Liturgist.....Sharon Squires
- Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
- Musicians..... The Sanctuary Choir and West Virginia Quintet: Matt Barabas, Trumpet
.....Adam Loudin, Trumpet; Andrew Scott, Horn; Brian Plitnik, Trombone; Larry Dine, Tuba
- Sound Technician.....Joe Aurigemma
- Ushers..... Josh Gilhart and Rolfe Singerman

<http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland>

Copies of Pastor Caroline's sermons are available on the church website
at www.fpc-cumberland/org/worship/sermons.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: Worship will feature music from the West Virginia Brass Quintet.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: Please plan to support this special offering, half of which will go to help support Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools. Your gifts last year helped make it possible for more than 3,000 students to obtain a quality education at the Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the Presbyterian Pan American school in Kingsville, Texas; and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. These schools have a rich history of preparing racial-ethnic women and men for leadership in the church and society.

4:00PM-MISSION OUTREACH DINNER: The monthly outreach dinner that we help with will be held at the HRDC building on Virginia Avenue. Dinner will be served from 4:00-5:30PM. If anyone can volunteer to serve dinner, help clean tables and/or provide Christmas cookies; please let Judy Stern, Phil Mills, or Linda Smith know.

5:00PM - MOUNTAINSIDE BAROQUE: A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS, featuring a traditional holiday blend of modern and early music with the Scholars of St. Cecilia, at Emmanuel Episcopal.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017

7:00PM - LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE: For many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, and sadness. This service offers a way for people to deal with those feelings and still feel surrounded by the love of God. Join us for a time of prayer, reflective music and candle lighting as we claim the promise of our faith this season. Representatives of Emmanuel Episcopal and Hope Against Heroin will help lead the service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE

11:00AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: Worship will feature a come-one, come-all, "no practice" Christmas pageant directed by Mikayla Dodge. The participants move and respond to lines prompted by the narrator, using a script adapted from Eugene Peterson's interpretations of the gospel narrative in his book *The Message*. This service will also include music from the Sanctuary Choir; soloist Beau Hartman and flutist Brenda Luger.

7:45PM - SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: We will celebrate the birth of Christ with a traditional Christmas Eve service that includes communion, candle lighting and Christmas music.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017, 11:00AM: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

11:00AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: Worship will feature Christmas Lessons and Carols.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland. Childcare is provided in the nursery. An usher will be glad to direct you there.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: While we do provide a nursery for young children, we also welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. After the Time for Young Disciples, children may go to the nursery for a Bible lesson or remain in the sanctuary. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

WORSHIP BROADCASTS: This morning's broadcast was made possible by the generous donation of an anonymous church family!

WORSHIP BROADCASTS TO END. After December 31, 2017, we will no longer be broadcasting our Sunday services on WCBC Radio. For several years the Worship and Music Committee has been aware of declining donations of the significant \$75 fee for weekly radio broadcasts. We have been unable to negotiate a lower figure. After long and careful consideration, the Committee decided that our church's mission is better served by using congregational donations for other ministries. We will continue to broadcast our Sunday services live on YouTube.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

ELDERS: AGNES YOUNT & PAM JAN

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of December 10, 2017
Total 2017 Pledges Promised	\$241,753.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 13,339.00
<u>2017 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$228,414.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$215,620.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$211,494.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 4,125.00

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

December 11, 2016	December 10, 2017
62	86

2017 YEAR END GIVING: Thanks for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2017. Remember that **year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than Sunday, December 31st** in order to qualify as 2017 contributions for tax purposes.

PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2018 are available in the pews and extras can be found in the back of the sanctuary. While pledges are welcome at any time, we encourage you to provide your 2018 pledge by **Sunday, December 31st**, in order to help us in planning for the new year. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2018 are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please contact the church office.

FAITH FORMATION

ELDERS: CHELSEA BOOR & JOE WEAVER

WAKING UP WHITE AND FINDING MYSELF IN THE STORY OF RACE: Ann Kellermeyer and others will be leading a nine-week book study starting in January based on Debbie Irving's 2014 book, *Waking Up White*, using a study guide written for the church by PC(U.S.A.) Co-Moderators The Rev'ds Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston. Referred to as "A jolting and continuing journey from white oblivion to white awareness described in an honest way....," the book has been studied by many churches across the country (and referred to in a recent sermon by Rev. Kelly). We will meet in the

Heritage Room after worship on Sundays from 12:15 to 2:15. If you are interested, please contact Ann Kellermeyer, akellermeyer@me.com, Pam Jan, pamannjan@yahoo.com, or Brittany in the church office.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

ELDERS: SHIRLEY GIARRITTA & GARY HENDRICKSON

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT SNOWS ON SUNDAY?

Sunday School – The Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Faith Formation and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult by phone and make a decision by 8:00 a.m. If Sunday School is canceled, an announcement will be made on WCBC 1270 AM radio station (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members, on Facebook, and the church website.

Worship – Worship will be canceled only in the most extreme weather conditions. If indicated, the Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Worship & Music and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult and make a decision. If worship is canceled, an announcement will be made on WCBC 1270 AM radio station (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members, on Facebook, and the church website.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

MONDAY, DECEMBER (18)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
1:30 PM AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER (19)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
6:00 PM CUMBERLAND MUSIC & ARTS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER (20)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
10:30 AM STAFF MEETING IN THE PASTOR'S OFFICE
7:00 PM LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE HERITAGE ROOM
7:45 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER (21)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER (22)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER (23)

6:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE LIBRARY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER (24)

9:45 AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY & 2-5 YEAR OLD CLASS: AN ILLUSTRATED COMPASSION
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
"NO PRACTICE" CHRISTMAS PLAY
7:45 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE

* Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and January 1 and will be closing at noon on Friday, December 29th.

REASON FOR THE SEASON

As you plan your gift giving for this Christmas season, please consider giving to one or more of the global and local projects below. This year's Reason for the Season will help support those that suffered DISASTER this year, help combat ADDICTION, and help support EDUCATION! After reading the details about each of the projects, discern which ones that God is calling you to support.

DISASTER

- ❖ For the **MAASAI tribes in southeastern KENYA**, a severe **multiyear drought** is endangering their semi nomadic way of life. Cattle, their most prized possession and livelihood, are dying. Some families walk up to 25 miles to get water and carry it back. By the time they return the water is not pure, causing much illness especially in children. Being proactive, the Maasai started Pals Foundation, a nonprofit which works "to alleviate poverty by building equitable and sustainable practice in development in pastoralist communities in Kenya". Donations will go toward additional well boring equipment for the Maasai people through their Foundation.
- ❖ **Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria** left damage that was catastrophic, with deaths and massive damage sustained in Texas, Puerto Rico, Cuba, US Virgin Islands, and more. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance [PDA] has been in constant communication with affected communities, distributing emergency grants and deploying Response Team members. Our donations will enable PDA to give even more long term assistance.

ADDICTION

- ❖ **CityReach Church Hope Homes** provide a place of hope and freedom for people dealing with life-controlling issues or desperate situations. With concentrations on spiritual discipleship and life disciplines reinforced by prayer, bible study, volunteerism and work programs, men and women are held accountable and encouraged to reach their full potential in a faith-filled, family-style atmosphere. Our donations will help support the CityReach Hope Homes for men and women in Cumberland.
- ❖ **Hope Against Heroin** is a local faith-based organization whose ministry is based on the recognition that addiction is a chronic and progressive disease, which deeply impacts not only the addict but the entire family and community. They strive to guide each individual including their family in the recovery process, with the goal of living life to its full potential-free from addiction. In partnership with other organizations and churches in the community, they strive to give hope to the hopeless, educate the community about addiction, offer resources, and provide a safe, happy environment for children in the community. Our contributions will help support their efforts to accomplish these goals through events they have planned for the community's children, an annual march and vigil to raise awareness and efforts to support more locally-based treatment options.

EDUCATION

- ❖ **Ihanktonwan Learning Camp** in South Dakota is one of our partnerships. An ecumenical, multigenerational group, led by Robin Bissell, has shared the joy of learning with Dakota children to encourage them to keep learning. It costs volunteers approximately \$825.00 to spend this worthwhile week with the children. The experience for the volunteers, and the children, is priceless.
- ❖ **Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan's** mission is to improve Pakistan through quality education. We are currently supporting seven students. Their ambitions range from becoming a lawyer, doctor, software engineer, banker, and teacher. Receiving a scholarship of approximately \$60/month means that students can continue their education, accomplish their goals, and become productive citizens.

What looks like extreme catastrophes and needs to us are manageable with God's help. We are God's hands and feet to bring that help to others. Thank you for your gifts through Reason for the Season.

REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please make your total amount payable to "First Presbyterian Church", marked "Reason for the Season".

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Amount. Items include MAASAI tribes in southeastern KENYA, Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and Maria Relief (PDA), CityReach Church Hope Homes, Hope Against Heroin, Presbyterian Ed. Bd. (Pakistan) scholarships, Ihanktonwan Learning Camp, OTHER, and Total.

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God's love in Christ where all of God's children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
· Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
· Sent to share God's love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015

OUR STAFF

Minister of Word and Sacrament/Pastor.....Rev. Caroline M. Kelly
Director of Music MinistriesBryan Lohr
Executive Administrative Assistant.....Brittany Jackson
Sound Tech/Security.....Joe Aurigemma
Sexton.....John Brown
Sunday Worship Child Care Providers.....Ginny Reid and Jessie Gates

THE SESSION

Class of 2018: Carl Belt, Carolyn Mathews, Judy Stern, and Agnes Yount

Class of 2019: Shirley Giarritta, Gary Hendrickson, Phil Mills, and David Stickler

Class of 2020: Barbara Aber, Chelsea Boor, Jeff Getty, Pam Jan, and Joe Weaver

Clerk of Session.....Jeff Getty
Moderator.....Caroline Kelly