

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
DECEMBER 23, 2018 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

11:00 AM

RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING VOLUNTARY

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL
A CAROL FANTASY
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

ARR. WALTER BLANTON
ARR. JOHN IVESON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

INTROIT

THE FIRST NOEL
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

ARR. JACK GALE

* CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Voice 1: In this last leg of our Advent pilgrimage, we seek serenity to embrace love.

Voice 2: Created for relationship, our frenetic pace leaves us rootless
and isolation has frayed the fabric of our being,
timidly we heed the call to embrace the mystery of love.

The glass containers on the communion table are filled with stones containing words of grief which were collected during our Longest Night Service on December 19. We will keep these containers visible throughout the Christmas Season as a visual reminder that we bring all of who we are—grief included—into worship this season.

Voice 1: Love is opening to the unexpected challenge.
Love is opening to the vulnerable one.
Love is opening to the presence of holiness.

All: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we seek love.
(All four candles are lit).

* **HYMN #88** O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL *(verses 1-3, 6-7)* “VENI EMMANUEL”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Living God,
You beckon us to wake from our sleep:
to open our eyes to the goodness of your reign,
the injustice of our world, and the gap in between.
You call us to follow in the path of your love.
Forgive us, O God, when we choose the easy way.
Forgive us, O God, when we choose the selfish way,
the fast way, the successful way, the nice way,
the friendly way, the comfortable way.
Convict us, awaken us, empower us, and
enliven us to follow the Way of justice and love...
(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

KYRIE ELEISON #103 COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE *(verse 2)* “O-So-So”
Come now, O God of love; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

* **RESPONSE #132** GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE *(verse 3)* “IN DULCI JUBILO”
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

* **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.)

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING MICAH 5:2-5A PEW BIBLE, OT, P. 815
After the reading: Heaven and earth will pass away
but the word of the Lord stands forever. **Thanks be to God.**

As we light a new Advent candle each week, focus on the increasing light the candles generate throughout the season as we draw nearer to our celebration of the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. **This morning, Cindy and Elena Corley light the candle of love.**

Each Sunday during Advent, we hear the **Old Testament prophets** describe the coming Messiah and his kingdom.

ANTHEM

MAGNIFICAT IN C MINOR

GEORGE DYSON

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR AND THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm. He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers,

Abraham and his seed, for ever.

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.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:39-45

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 53

After the reading: Heaven and earth will pass away

but the word of the Lord stands forever. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

REV. CAROLINE KELLY

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* HYMN #100

MY SOUL CRIES OUT WITH A JOYFUL SHOUT "STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN"

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

SHEPHERD'S PIPE CAROL BY JOHN RUTTER

ARR. JOHN SCHOOLEY

THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

* AT THE PRESENTATION

"GREENSLEEVES"

These gifts we joyfully bring to you,

to fill the world with meaning;

our hearts and minds are longing for
the life of which you are dreaming.

This, this our gift we bring,

our lives we share, your praise we sing;

show us your vision, Lord,

for hope, and peace, and caring.

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

Many of us give our monetary **offering** weekly. Many of us give our offering monthly or even yearly. This morning, even if you are not putting your monetary offering in the plate today, please touch the inside of the plate when it goes by. This will help us remember that the gift we are offering is actually ourselves.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* HYMN #110 LOVE HAS COME "BRING A TORCH"

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

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 HANDEL'S MESSIAH ARR. CHUCK SEIPP
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

* 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.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Caroline Kelly
Liturgist.....Kim Mills
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Musicians..... The Sanctuary Choir and West Virginia Quintet: Matt Barabas, Trumpet;
.....Matt Inkster, Trumpet; Andrew Scott, Horn; Brian Plitnik, Trombone; John Schooley, Tuba
Sound TechnicianJoe Aurigemma
Ushers.....David Stickler and John Mullan

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: Today, our congregation will be donating to the Christmas Joy Offering. By doing so, our gifts go to help past and present church workers receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenges. We will also be supporting Presbyterian racial ethnic schools that help prepare future church leaders. Please give generously!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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. The service will feature traditional, familiar favorites for organ, piano, flute, and voices.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018, 11:00AM: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

11:00AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: Worship will feature Christmas Lessons and Carols, including the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday, December 24, 2018- Open until Noon Tuesday, December 25, 2018- Closed
Wednesday, December 26, 2018- Closed Thursday, December 27, 2018- Open until Noon by Volunteer
Friday, December 28, 2018- Open until Noon by Volunteer

Monday, December 31, 2018- Closed Tuesday, January 1, 2019- Closed
Wednesday, January 2, 2019- Open until Noon by Volunteer

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 ON YOUTUBE: To view worship services live or to view taped worship services, go to www.youtube.com (First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland Live Stream) or go to our website <http://www.fpc-cumberland.org/> and click on "click here to view our worship service" located at the bottom of the home page.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: AGNES YOUNT & GARY HENDRICKSON

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of December 16, 2018
Total 2018 Pledges Promised	\$222,725.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 11,275.00
2018 Pledge Balance Promised	\$211,450.00
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 208,972.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 199,481.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 9,490.00

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

December 17, 2017
79

December 16, 2018
92

PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2019 are available in the pews and extras can be found in the back of the sanctuary. Although they were consecrated during worship a few weeks ago, you can make or update your pledge at any time. Envelopes are provided

and you can place your pledge in the offering plate, or in the church office. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.

2018 YEAR END GIVING: Thanks for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2018. Remember that **year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than next Sunday, December 30th or post marked by December 31st** in order to qualify as 2018 contributions for tax purposes.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2019 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

RULING ELDER: JOE WEAVER

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Adult Sunday School will break for the holidays for the next few Sundays and will resume on Sunday, January 13th. Children's Sunday School will continue to meet on Sunday mornings with the exception on Sunday, December 30th.

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: PHIL MILLS & PAM JAN

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Thanks to all who signed the Christmas card for our partner congregation in Vsetin, Czech Republic. They are thinking of us and sending us their greetings and best wishes. A card will come soon. They now broadcast their service also. The link will be in our next newsletter.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

RULING ELDERS: DAVID STICKLER & CATHY LEVITAS

LOOKING AHEAD: In these next few weeks, as we prepare for Christmas and plan to bid Caroline and Jim a bittersweet farewell, we have many blessings for which we are thankful. God brought Caroline to us, and these last six years under her leadership have been Spirit - filled. Now God is directing Caroline to a new church and is leading us in new directions, too. Knowing that change can be unsettling, Session has been working to ease the transition into the next chapter of our church life. Towards that end, we have asked Walt Peters to be a long term guest preacher after Caroline's departure. He has graciously agreed and Session has approved this. Beginning on Sunday, January 13, 2019, Walt will preach each Sunday (with the exception of February 3) continuing through April 2019. We hope to have an interim in place around Easter, but Walt has graciously offered to be flexible with that time frame. Please join us as we celebrate Caroline's wonderful legacy at First Presbyterian and welcome Walt as our long term guest preacher.

REASON FOR THE SEASON

Once again it's time to celebrate the gift of God's son. What better way to "pay that gift forward" than by alternative giving (though it shouldn't be "alternative" - it's what God expects of us). Through "Reason for the Season", our Mission Committee highlights certain causes, but any of the ministries this church supports could use your help. Please consider prayerfully which one(s) God is nudging you toward.

- **Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan's mission** is to improve Pakistan through quality education of Christian and Muslim students. Veda Gill, Executive Director of PEB, visited us this fall and updated us on PEB's progress. We currently support seven students at Kinnaird Academy in Lahore. A scholarship of approximately \$60/month means that students can continue their education for a better future for themselves and their country. www.friendsofpeb.org
- **Women Discovering New Roles and Support in Central America, CEDEPCA**, in Guatemala, is a partner with the Baltimore Presbytery. One of its 4 projects is Women's Ministry. Faith-based activities empower women to understand their rights, take leadership roles, and begin or continue their formal education. One specific need is scholarships~ a full tuition for 1 month for 1 woman, taking the Women's Ministry courses and workshops, is \$32. Another need is textbooks~ \$60 for a student enrolled in a Women's Ministry class for 1 year.

- **Hunger Initiatives in Yemen are being sponsored by the Presbyterian Hunger Program.** The tragic war in Yemen is causing a severe food shortage that threatens millions of lives. Fishing is the main livelihood, but without resources the men can't fish. This reduces meals to one per day, if that much. Nursing mothers are especially affected. By supplying fishing nets and lines to communities affected by conflict, there is again a source of nutritious food and an income.
- **CityReach Church's Hope Homes** in Cumberland minister to adults dealing with life-controlling issues or desperate situations who have a desire to change. It helps them discover their God-given destiny through discipleship-based recovery homes in a faith-filled, family setting. The emphasis is on transformation through the life-changing love of Jesus Christ. Discipleship within the Hope Homes includes discipline, Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, community service projects, mentorship, work projects, and personal spiritual development.
- **Hope Against Heroin** is another local faith-based organization whose ministry is based on the fact that addiction is a disease which deeply impacts the addict, their family and community. Partnering with other organizations and churches, they give hope, educate the community about addiction, offer resources, and provide a safe, happy environment for children.
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Work Project:** Last year a group of FPC volunteers went to West Virginia to aid in flood relief and found it to be such a rewarding experience that we would like to plan another mission trip for next year. Phil Mills has proposed to recruit a team to travel to New Bern, NC for a week to serve those who have lost so much due to Hurricane Florence. The group will need money for supplies for their project, registration and transportation, as well as other expenses. More information will detail the project as it develops. Contact Phil Mills if you are interested in signing up for this hands-on giving.
- Any of the other ministries that we support may also be an alternative gift, such as: Special Ministries; Union Rescue Mission; Interfaith Food Pantry; Family Crisis Resource Center; NAILS; Outreach Dinners; South Dakota Learning Camp; "This Child Here" in Ukraine; Juna Amagara in Uganda; Q Mountain in Lesotho; Mulanje Hospital in Malawi; Shanta Nepal, or Welfare Assoc. for Children in Tikapur (WACT) in Nepal; and others.

REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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

Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan's mission	\$ _____
Women Discovering New Roles and Support in Central America	\$ _____
Hunger Initiatives in Yemen	\$ _____
CityReach Church's Hope Homes	\$ _____
Hope Against Heroin	\$ _____
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Work Project	\$ _____
OTHER _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

MONDAY, DECEMBER (24)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN UNTIL NOON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER (25)

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER (26)

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS

7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE HERITAGE ROOM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER (27)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN UNTIL NOON BY AN OFFICE VOLUNTEER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER (28)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN UNTIL NOON BY AN OFFICE VOLUNTEER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER (29)

6:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE HERITAGE ROOM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER (30)

9:45AM AN ILLUSTRATED COMPASSION: LEARNING TO LOVE LIKE GOD (2-5 YEAR OLDS)

11:00AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

* Please note that Brittany will be on vacation from Thursday, December 27th- Wednesday, January 2nd. The church office will be opened by an office volunteer until noon on Thursday and Friday, December 27th and 28th and will be closed on Monday, December 31st and Tuesday, January 1st.