



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2020 11:00 AM

PRELUDE

PRELUDE NO. 1, IN C MAJOR
FROM 'BOOK ONE OF THE WELL TEMPERED CLAVIER'
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

J. S. BACH

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME , ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS

INTROIT

MESSIAH, COME
WESLEY MASON, VIOLIN AND BRYAN LOHR, PIANO

ARR. CHRISTY JAMES

* ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

* HYMN #143

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

"REGENT SQUARE"

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, Loving God, we try to follow you; we try to do what you want us to do, and we do for a while; but then we slip. We let our baser selves take control, and we say things that hurt, we do things we know we should not do. Sometimes we deliberately hurt someone by saying spiteful things, and even by going behind their back, to do what we know we should not do. And we do such things even now, in times of isolation and distancing, when we should be supportive of one another and our family. That we do such things in this holy time of Advent, the time of preparing to celebrate Christmas, is even worse.

We are ashamed of ourselves, O Lord. Have mercy on us sinners, for the sake of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ.
(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, hear these words from the Scriptures (Isaiah 9:2): "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -on them light has shined." Friends, believe this Good News: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please feel free to write a greeting to others on your keyboard at this time!)

* SUNG RESPONSE #582

GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

"GLORY TO GOD"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

A MOMENT WITH BEAUREGARD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 60:1-7

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a] because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

⁷ All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house.

ANTHEM

ADORATION

FLORENCE PRICE

WESLEY MASON, VIOLIN AND BRYAN LOHR, PIANO

NEW TESTAMENT READING

MATTHEW 2:1-12

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men^[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,^[b] and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd^[d] my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men^[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,^[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped,^[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

CHRISTMAS WITH MATTHEW—WHAT HAPPENED AFTER JESUS WAS BORN

REV. DR. JAMES R.M. YOUNG

*** HYMN #144**

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

"CRANHAM"

PRAYERS FOR ONE ANOTHER, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR NATION, ENDING WITH 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 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.

*** HYMN #147**

THE FIRST NOWELL

"THE FIRST NOWELL"

*** BENEDICTION**

(Please do not hold hands.)

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

MESSIAH, COME
WESLEY MASON, VIOLIN AND BRYAN LOHR, PIANO

ARR. CHRISTY JAMES

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Music Notes

The introit, *Messiah, Come* is a haunting and powerful medley which combines the Advent hymns *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* and *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*, the former being derived from ancient plainchant, and the latter being written in 1744 by English clergyman and leader of the Methodist movement, Charles Wesley, set to a well-known Welsh tune.

Composer Florence Price (1887-1953) was the first African American woman to have a piece of music performed by a major symphony orchestra. Price’s **Adoration** is a Neo-Romantic work for solo organ, but has been adapted for violin and piano for this morning’s service by Wesley Mason and Bryan Lohr.

This Morning’s Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. James R.M. Young
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Musician.....Wesley Mason, Violin
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler

SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. DR. JAMES R.M. YOUNG, MODERATOR OF THE SESSION
JEFF GETTY, CLERK

CLASS OF 2021

Bob Courtney: Building & Grounds
Laura Fiscus: Mission
Josh Gilhart: Faith Formation
Aaron Hendrickson: Mission

CLASS OF 2022

Cindy Corley: Administration & Finance
Gary Hendrickson: Administration & Finance
David Stickler: Worship & Music
Evan Swanger: Building & Grounds

CLASS OF 2023

Kristina Hall: Congregational Care & Outreach
Janet Hendershot: Faith Formation
Sharon Kazary: Worship & Music
Jan Layman: Congregational Care & Outreach

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

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of December 6 2020
Total 2020 Pledges Promised	\$206,064.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 17,368.00
<u>2020 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$188,696.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$177,974.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$178,780.00
Over/(Under)	\$(806.00)

ONLINE PLEDGE SUBMISSION NOW AVAILABLE: This year, we have created a way to submit your pledges online via our webpage. If you are interested in submitting your pledge online, please visit <http://www.fpc-cumberland.org/pledge/>.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

RULING ELDERS: KRISTINA HALL & JAN LAYMAN

JOIN US WHEREVER YOU ARE FOR OUR 5MIN NOON PRAYER MONDAY

JOIN US WHEREVER YOU ARE FOR OUR 5MIN NOON PRAYER MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 12:00-12:05.

PRAYER REQUESTS: You can now submit your prayer request on the FPC website. Click the nurture tab and then prayer request. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Christmas Fundraiser 2020

In the place of the Christmas Music Offering this year, Session has approved the motion presented by the Worship & Music Committee to collect funds to purchase a new projector for the sanctuary. The new projector will enhance our ability to stream and project during services and allow us to continue to host simulcast and movies in the future.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

TOTAL GIFT: \$ _____

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one)

✂ _____

If you wish to dedicate your Christmas Fundraiser donation in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the tear-off sheet and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

Please print all the names exactly as you would like them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check designated “Christmas Fundraiser 2020” in the memo line. Proceeds from the Christmas Fundraiser will be used to purchase a new projector for the church. **Please submit offering and dedication no later than next Sunday, December 20th.**

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: LAURA FISCUS * & AARON HENDRICKSON

REASON FOR THE SEASON 2020

As we’ve learned all too well this year, viruses can spread around the world bringing sickness, increased poverty and hunger, and death. In contrast, what would the opposite look like? A “virus” that spreads God’s contagious love?

Mission is one way to do that. Through “Reason for the Season”, our church has been spreading such a “virus” locally and around the globe for over 20 years. It’s an alternative giving opportunity that can be a donation or a gift to another person. Please prayerfully consider how you can help spread *this* “virus”.

Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan (PEB) provides quality education to “poorest of the poor” (aka Christian) children through scholarships if parents cannot afford the \$2/month tuition. A scholarship to one student spreads the benefits of an education to future generations. The cost per student is \$365/year, or \$31 per month, which covers tuition, books, supplies, and uniforms. Boarding student scholarships are twice that. We currently sponsor 7 students through this donation and the Mission budget.

“This Child Here” in Ukraine currently trains all foster families and social workers in the Odessa region. There are 751 orphanages in Ukraine and 106,000 youth and children in them. The hope is to get kids back into healthy families: families of origin or foster families, to give them a strong foundation for their life. The cost for two staff people to lead a session is \$400. Training covers 3 days and includes classes on childhood development and skills in effective parenting. Up to 10 people are allowed in each session due to COVID, but previously it was 25.

Q Mountain Connection Emergency Food Fund, Lesotho is a lifeline for the people of Qholaqhoe where there has been a drought and crop failures for more than four years. There are no unemployment funds, PPE, or healthcare benefits.

No food pantries and very little food support of any kind. The World Food Program has warned that a hunger pandemic could eclipse the coronavirus. Our church supports 5 high school students with scholarships who, along with 57 other high school students, will benefit from the emergency food fund. \$75 provides supplementary food for a child for 10 months.

Western Maryland Food Bank supplies food to 80 local agencies, emergency needs, and the school backpack program. In the last six months it distributed 482,389 pounds of food. Of that, 220,820 pounds were fresh produce. The Food Bank now has an outlet of fresh food but needs a refrigerated truck in order to bring it to people of the Cumberland area, for a more healthy diet. Since the food bank relies entirely on donations, a truck is a major expense for them.

Interfaith Food Pantry is an all-volunteer emergency food resource for people who live in Cumberland. Located at 301 Cumberland St., it formed in 1975 by the 23 local churches of the Interfaith Consortium. The pantry provides non-perishable food, and vouchers that can be used in three local markets to purchase perishable foods. Distribution of food is governed by family circumstances, family number, and number of times the pantry has been used during the current year. Volunteers are also always needed and welcome.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) believes every abused or neglected child deserves to have a dedicated advocate speaking up for their best interest in court, at school, and in our community. Non-profit CASA trains and supervises community volunteers who ensure each child’s needs remain a priority in an overburdened child welfare system. For these children, CASA means having a home instead of feeling lost, and being a priority instead of feeling invisible. Two church members have taken the training to become advocates.

Other ministries that our church supports can also be chosen: **WACT, and Shanti Nepal; Juna Amagara (Uganda); Mulanje Hospital) Malawi; Ihanktonwan Learning Camp (SD); Union Rescue Mission; Family Crises Resource Centre; NAILS; Salvation Army; Allegany Health Right; Allegany Law; United Campus Ministries**

REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM - 2020

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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

Presbyterian Education Board (PEB), scholarships, Pakistan \$ _____

This Child Here _____

Q Mountain Connection Emergency Food Fund _____

Western Maryland Food Bank _____

Interfaith Food Pantry _____

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) _____

OTHER: _____

(WACT, and Shanti Nepal; Juna Amagara (Uganda); Mulanje Hospital) Malawi; Ihanktonwan Learning Camp (SD); Union Rescue Mission; Family Crises Resource Centre; NAILS; Salvation Army; Allegany Health Right; Allegany Law; United Campus Ministries.)

TOTAL: \$ _____