



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 20, 2020 11:00 AM

PRELUDE

MEDITATION ON WINTER SOLSTICE
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

ROBERTA ROLAND-RAYBOLD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME , ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS

INTROIT

COME, JESUS, HOLY SON OF GOD
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR (STREAMED LIVE FROM WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 3, 2017)

G. F. HANDEL

* ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

* HYMN #113

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

"GLORIA"

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, hear these words from the Scriptures (Isaiah 9:6): "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." 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!)

* SONG 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 9:2-7

²^[a] 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.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

ANTHEM

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL
MIKAYLA, ZACH, AND ARIA DODGE

J. F. WADE

NEW TESTAMENT READING

LUKE 2:1-20

The Birth of Jesus

² In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”^[c]

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON

“A CHANCE MEETING”

REV. DR. JAMES R.M. YOUNG

*** HYMN #117**

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

“WINCHESTER OLD”

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 #134**

JOY TO THE WORLD

“ANTIOCH”

* BENEDICTION

* SUNG RESPONSE #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS
(Please do not hold hands.)

“DENNIS”

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

VARIATIONS ON ‘ADESTE FIDELES’
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

RAYNOR TAYLOR

* 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

This morning’s organ prelude is an original work by Roberta Roland-Raybold (b. 1938.) After spending 25 years working in the insurance industry in State College, PA, Roland-Raybold earned a degree in music from Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH and continued graduate studies at Eastman Conservatory, in Rochester, NY. **Winter Solstice** comes from a 2015 collection of carol arrangements which primarily features non-traditional carols of the season.

Born in London, Raynor Taylor (1747-1825) immigrated to the United States in 1792. He briefly settled in Baltimore, but soon moved to Philadelphia, where he became a prominent figure in the musical and cultural life of the city. Taylor’s **Variations on ‘Adeste Fideles’** are typical of the vibrant and whimsical style that he often employed in his compositions, especially those written for the theater.

This Morning’s Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. James R.M. Young
Liturgist.....Sharon Kazary
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Musician.....The Sanctuary Choir (previously recorded), Zach and Mikayla Dodge, Vocalist
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 13, 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	\$180,364.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$182,428.00
Over/(Under)	\$(2,064.00)

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

NOON PRAYER INVITATION: The Congregational Care & Outreach Committee invites you to join them in communal prayer, every day at Noon, Monday through Saturday, just for 5 minutes. It will give you a quiet mini retreat in the middle of a busy day, or a sense of a virtual community in case you are suffering from quarantine loneliness. You can pray anywhere, any prayer, any language, and know that someone from our Congregation is there with you in spirit.

The best way to be in sync is to put the Noon Prayer into the Alarm on your cell phone - at least that is how some of us do it. Thank you for joining us ! - and if you miss, do not worry, we will pray for you.

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 today.**

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: LAURA FISCUS * & AARON HENDRICKSON

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: This Sunday and next Sunday are the days set aside to contribute to the Christmas Joy Offering. 50% of the proceeds will go to help support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (BOP). This offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances.

The other 50 percent helps support Presbyterian related schools where communities of color can grow their faith and prepare to become the leaders of the Church in the future.

If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile offering, please send a check made out to the church and in the memo line write Christmas Joy Offering.

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: \$ _____