

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 12, 2021 11:00 AM



OPENING VOLUNTARY

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

"HYFRYDOL"  
ARR. M. HAYES

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

LINDA AND JESSICA MELLON AND FAMILY

INTROIT

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL  
THE JOYBELLS

LINDA SCHOLES  
BASED ON THE HYMN TUNE "VENI EMMANUEL"

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Surely God is our salvation!

**We will trust and not be afraid.**

For the Lord God is our strength and our might; the Lord has become our salvation.

**With joy you will draw water**

from the wells of salvation.

**On that day we will say:**

Give thanks to the Lord!

**Call upon God's name**

and make known the deeds of the Lord. Sing praises to God,  
**who has done glorious things!**

Let us pray -

O God of our salvation, you put a glad song on our lips. We trust you and are not afraid. In Christ is announced our source of deliverance; through him the lame walk and the outcast are praised. Soon you will gather your people for a festival of salvation; we assemble now in Christ's name to rejoice and boast of your goodness. Amen.

\* HYMN #110

LOVE HAS COME

"BRING A TORCH"

CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess that the fruit of our lives does not reflect repentance. We have, with stony hearts, esteemed spiritless heritage more than our spiritual inheritance in Christ. We have grown joyless and weak in faith, giving voice to worry rather than continual thanksgiving. Forgive us, O Lord. Take away reproach and remove disaster from us. Renew us in love, joy, and gladness in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### SUNG RESPONSE #92

WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME (VERSE 3)

“WAITING”

## PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

*We recognize how important we are to each other - as we worship, we pass the peace of Christ from our seats and wave to those who are joining us via Livestream. We belong to each other and are stronger together.*

## A TIME FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

### SECOND READING

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

## ANTHEM

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS  
THE JOYBELLS

LINDA SCHOLES  
BASED ON THE HYMN TUNE “HYFRYDOL”

### THIRD READING

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## SERMON

“AN ADVENT WALK: IN SEARCH OF JOY”

REV. ALISON PETERS

### \* HYMN #144

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

“CRANHAM”

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

*(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)*

## OFFERTORY SOLO

ARIA PASTORALIS VARIATA AND VARIATION  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

FRANZ MURSCHHAUSER (1663-1738)

\* DOXOLOGY #609

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"LASST UNE ERFREUEN"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low.  
In a stable, born of Mary!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
Christ is coming, Christ is coming!  
Let us praise him, let us praise him, Christ is coming!

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

\* HYMN #82

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

"HYFRYDOL"

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #86

THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS (VERSE 3)

"ISAIAH"

POSTLUDE

TRUMPET TUNE ON "WACHET AUF"  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

MARTHA SOBAJE (1948 -)

\* 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**.

### This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher..... Rev. Alison Peters  
Liturgist..... Hans Killius  
Organist..... Judith Brown  
Director of the JoyBells..... Julie Courtney  
Musicians..... The JoyBells  
Audio/Video Technicians..... Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers..... Kathy Dowell and John Mullan

### OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor..... Rev. Alison Peters  
Director of Music Ministries ..... Judith Brown  
Executive Administrative Assistant..... Brittany Jackson  
Sexton..... Zach Dodge  
Sound Tech/Security..... Joe Aurigemma  
Audio/Video Technician..... Eric Ringler

### 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

## SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### CLERK OF SESSION

David Stickler

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Cindy Corley & Gary Hendrickson

### BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Jan Layman & Mikayla Dodge

### FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Katie Ross

### MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Judy Stern

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Carl Belt

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME:** A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a "Big Tent Church" where everyone is welcome to join us in worshipping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life. We welcome you to worship with us.

**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](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland).

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:** We 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. 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.

**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.

**SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS:** Please use orange prayer request cards in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering.

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of December 5, 2021
Total 2021 Pledges Promised	\$192,124.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 400.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$191,724.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$192,681.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$184,338.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 8,343.00

## CHRISTMAS & ADVENT AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** On December 19 our congregation has the opportunity to give to the **Christmas Joy Offering**. We will also be happy to receive donations until January 15, 2022 for this special offering.

One half of the offering supports the education of future Presbyterian leaders from diverse ethnic backgrounds. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for racial ethnic students built on a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School, two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as Stillman College, where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service. Many of our church leaders have come from these schools.

Please consider giving generously to this special offering. **IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

**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 on Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM for a time of prayer, reflective music and candle lighting as we claim the promise of our faith this season.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE:** Join us at 7:30 PM as we celebrate the birth of Christ with a traditional Christmas Eve service that includes communion, candle lighting and Christmas music.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Thursday, December 23, 2021- Office Open until Noon

Friday, December 24, 2021- Office Open until Noon

Monday, December 27, 2021- CLOSED

Thursday, December 30, 2021- Open until Noon

Friday, December 31, 2021- CLOSED

Monday, January 3, 2021- CLOSED

**SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS:** Join us on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary for a Service of Lessons & Carol.

# Christmas Poinsettias 2021

If you wish to dedicate a Christmas poinsettia, please complete the tear-off sheet below and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office **by TODAY.**

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for the 7:30PM Christmas Eve service. If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please do so after the service. If you do not wish to keep your poinsettia, please indicate below. Additional donations may also be made toward the Christmas flowers.

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check for \$6.00 for each poinsettia, marked "CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA".

Number of poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$6.00 each                      Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my poinsettia:

I wish to donate my poinsettia:

Additional Contribution for Christmas flowers: \$ \_\_\_\_\_                      Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your order no later than TODAY.**

## Christmas Music Offering 2021

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL GIFT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

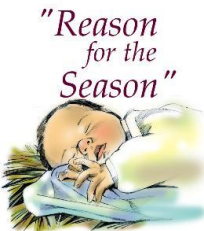
To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to dedicate Christmas Music 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 Music 2021" in the memo line. Proceeds from the Christmas Music Offering will be used to help defray the costs of seasonal guest musicians. **Please submit offering and dedication no later than Today.**

## Reason for the Season



We've all heard about broken supply chains causing shortages, panic buying, and higher prices. "Get those gifts now to avoid a blue Christmas!" is heard. Maybe we should use this "crisis" as an opportunity to focus instead on the true Christmas.

Our "Reason for the Season" is a good way to do that. It's an alternative giving opportunity that can be a donation, or a gift in lieu of a material gift. Each highlighted mission has a close connection to our church.

This year the projects selected are:

**PAKISTAN EDUCATION BOARD (PEB)** – Donations provide scholarships for “our” seven students who otherwise could not get an education. Often parents cannot support their family on low monthly wages. Receiving a scholarship of approximately \$30/month means that students can continue their education. They learn more than just subjects. Muslims and Christians study side by side in PEB’s 25 schools (approximately 42% of students are Muslim and 58 % are Christian). Because all faiths learn together and are respected in PEB’s schools, 6,000 students are learning the values of tolerance, respect, and love, which lead to a more peaceful society. [www.friendsofpeb.org](http://www.friendsofpeb.org)

**VSETÍN DIAKONIE, Czech Republic**– In the past, the elderly were cared for by families in their homes. Soon after Communism fell in 1989, the church’s Diakonies began providing social services for people with needs. This Diakonie has two homes for the elderly, one of them specializing in Alzheimer’s patients. They also care for senior citizens who still live at home, and provide rooms for seniors whose families need respite care. In addition there are activities with the Roma community’s children. Our partner church in Vsetin supports this center through volunteer work, prayer and donations. Dan Žarsky, the Director, visited our church when our partnership started 10 years ago. [www.diakonie.cz](http://www.diakonie.cz) (click “CZ” upper right and scroll to “EN” for English)

**AFGHAN REFUGEES, Maryland** – Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is well known for, among other things, its Good Neighbor Program, which resettles refugees. Since Operation Allies Refuge’s evacuation of over 100,000 Afghans who served alongside our troops, the LSS of the DC Metro area welcomed nearly 1,930 refugees since July 31<sup>st</sup>. They expect 2,400 more in 2022. State and federal funding is limited, so donations are crucial for housing, food, transportation, and daily needs. Setting up a home for an average family of 4-6 people costs \$4K-5K in donations and purchases. LSS will be opening a new office in Frederick in January. <https://lssnca.org/take-action/afghan-allies.html>

**JANE’S PLACE INC., Cumberland** – Allegany County’s Child Advocacy Center is named in honor of our late church member, Jane Dawson, who felt that every child should have the opportunity to grow and receive support necessary to be successful in life. Her husband Bob serves on the Board, and her son designed the teddy bear logo. Jane’s Place provides a child-friendly environment committed to reducing the trauma to children who have been abused, neglected, or sexually assaulted and provide them the space where they can begin to heal. It’s the county’s hub for all agencies that investigate child abuse and provide advocacy. They work as a team with the focus on the child. [www.jpjac.org](http://www.jpjac.org)

**MEN’S AXIS HOUSE, Union Rescue Mission (URM), Cumberland** –Axis House is a center for men who have reached a turning point in their lives and want to live a sober, Christ-filled life. It’s not a rehab center, but a recovery residence where they can focus on discipleship (training in the Bible) while living a sober life. Those who commit to the Axis House are agreeing to sober living and participation in discipleship to become or grow as a believer in Jesus Christ. The House provides: safe housing, basic needs met through URM, daily accountability, Biblical instruction, and planned activities. There are currently 5 men in the house. It’s a \$1000/month operation including transportation, meals, housing and utilities. [www.urmcumberland.org](http://www.urmcumberland.org)

**INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY, Cumberland** – This all-volunteer emergency food resource for people who live in Cumberland, MD was started in 1975 by the 23 local churches of the Interfaith Consortium. The pantry provides nonperishable food and vouchers that can be used in three local markets to purchase perishable foods. To receive pantry services, patrons need a referral card provided by the Department of Social Services or any of the supporting churches. Besides monetary donations, they are in need of volunteers to continue this much-needed service to our community. It is located at 301 Cumberland St., in the basement of the Head Start Building.

**Other ministries that our church supports can also be chosen: This Child Here (Ukraine); WACT, and Shanti Nepal; Juna Amagara (Uganda); Q Mt.(Lesotho); Mulanje Hospital (Malawi); Ihanktonwan Learning Camp (SD); Family Crises Resource Center; NAILS; Western Maryland Food Bank; Salvation Army; Allegany Health Right; Allegany Law; United Campus Ministries; After School At-Risk Meals.**

Please prayerfully consider what your donation could provide for a project(s) you’d like to help. Use the insert in the bulletins through December to indicate which mission you’d like to help, or put them on a piece of paper. Inserts and checks or money can be put in the offering plate or Brittany’s office. Merry TRUE Christmas!

REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM - 2021

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

PEB (Presby. Ed. Bd.) scholarships, Pakistan \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VSETÍN DIAKONIE, Czech Republic \_\_\_\_\_

AFGHAN REFUGEES, Maryland \_\_\_\_\_

JANE'S PLACE INC., Cumberland \_\_\_\_\_

MEN'S AXIS HOUSE, (URM), Cumberland \_\_\_\_\_

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY, Cumberland \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

(Special Ministries, Nepal, "This Child Here", SD Learning Camp, FCRC, etc, . . .)

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_