

ORDER OF SERVICE

December 11, 2011

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude "The Three Kings" Flemish Carol
arr. Russell

Lighting of the Advent Candle Matt, Lorena, Joshua &
Olivia Burgin, Andrew & Amber

Baker

Call to Worship (to be sung)

Choir: O come, Desire of nations, bind

Congregation: All peoples in one heart and mind.

Choir: Bid envy, strife and discord cease;

Congregation: Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

***Hymn** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #2

Announcements and Affirmation of Community

Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised kingdom. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us the wisdom to seek things that will endure. May we welcome the coming of Christ into our world and into our hearts in this season of Advent and always.

(moment of silence for personal reflection.) Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

***Gloria Patri**

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, Amen.

Children's Sermon Janora Stone

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (p.691)

Anthem "An Advent Alleluia" Douglas Wagner

Second Scripture Lesson John 1:6-8, 19-28 (p.91)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Who Will You Be Expecting?" Rev. Kathleen Crighton

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith [From The Confession of 1967, sections 9.18-19]

God expressed his love for all [humanity] through Israel, whom he chose to be his covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, he disciplined the nation with his judgments and maintained his cause through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose for Israel and for [humanity] would be realized.

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

***Hymn** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" #20

Call for Dedication of Life and Substance

Offertory "In the Bleak Midwinter" arr. by Craig Courtney

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men

***Prayer of Dedication**

Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Prayer Response "Amen"

***Hymn** "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow" #50

Congregational Meeting

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** "Star Child" Carlton Young

Postlude "From Heaven Above" Gordon Young

All are invited to remain seated during the postlude at the end of the service. If you are unable to remain during this time, please leave as quietly as possible.

USHERS: Trevor & Zaidee Laughlin

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Vicki Washburn

ORGANIST: David Carpenter

PRE-SERVICE PIANIST: Meg Smith

PASTOR: Rev. Kathleen Crighton

WORSHIP LEADERS: The Burgin Family

CLERK OF SESSION: Judy Bunnell

MODERATOR OF DEACONS: Sally Meisenheimer

DIR. OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES: Marianne Wilson

MODERATOR of PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN Marjorie Mapstone

MINISTERS: All the members of this congregation.

WELCOME to the First Presbyterian Church. We invite all visitors to join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall, directly below the sanctuary, following the service. We encourage both members and visitors to wear their name tags. Thank you to our hostess Janora Stone.

If you can **host coffee hour** on December 25th or January 1st please call the church office at 561-3140 or see Karen Merrill.

Members and visitors are asked to sign the friendship pads in the pews and pass them down the pews, noting the names of those around you so you can greet them after the service.

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR THE WEEK OF December 11, 2011

Warren Bentzen

Mike, Tracy, Chloe & Cade Berry

Howard & Sara Black

PRAYER CONCERNS

Linda & Al Tripp

Laura Zehr

Audrey Walker

Arthur Newgarden

Joel Keltner (in Afghanistan)

Candy & John Wagner

Joe Krugler (in Afghanistan)

David Knight

Christina King

Davin Blow

Connor Marvin

Tim Blow

Marilee Patnode

Louise Long

Wally Hauver (Kay Haupt's brother)

Jamie

Svenson

The family of Frank Pabst

Phyllis Wells

The session has called a **congregational meeting** today, Sunday, December 11 immediately after the 9:30 service for the purpose of electing ruling elders and deacons for the class of 2014 and to fill an unexpired term for ruling elder for the class of 2012 and an unexpired term for deacon for the class of 2013. Please plan to be present for the meeting.

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the success of the Tea and Bazaar! The total to date is \$8,221.50.

Salvation Army BELL-RINGERS needed!

Saturday, December 17th 10 to 6 p.m. Please sign up for a one hour time slot (Inside), contact Barbara Doh if you can help (561-5049)

This week:

Monday 5:00 p.m. Pizza Plus
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Youth
5:30 p.m. Personnel Mtg.
7:00 p.m. Deacons (at Meisenheimer's)

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Local Mission Council Mtg.
11:45 a.m. Interfaith Council (at CVPH)
7:00 p.m. Building and Grounds Council

Wednesday 10:15 a.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. “Love Wins” Study Group

Saturday 10:30 to 1:30 Advent Festival

Christmas Candlelight Concert – Sunday, December 18th at 4 p.m.
The Adult Choir is proud to present their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The choir will sing a lovely selection of seasonal anthems which are sure to prepare your hearts for the coming of the Messiah. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Please invite a friend or neighbor to come with you. There will be a reception in Fellowship Hall following the concert. Won’t you take time out from your busy holiday schedule and join us for this performance? You’ll be glad you did!

THANK YOU to Sally Meisenheimer & Matt Burgin for decorating the sanctuary for Advent, and also thanks to Nancy Collin who arranges to have Christmas trees in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, and to the many helping hands for transporting, setting up, and decorating the trees.

Youth Groups: Monday, December 19th will be one meeting time for all youth from 5:00-7:00. In honor of Christmas time we will light the advent wreath one last time, play games, and end with white elephant gift exchange. Dinner will be potluck

Sunday Adult Christian Education:

Adult Life Application Class – meets each week in the Youth Director’s office following worship. Led by Sally Meisenheimer.

God in America – Part II - meets in the church library at 10:45 sharp. Led by Stuart Voss. Today: “King and Graham”. Class will resume again on January 8th.

Christmas Caroling – **Tuesday, December 20** Directly following the Family Meeting here at 5:30, we will meet at Lake Forest at 7:00 p.m. Join us for an evening of Christmas Caroling with our church members. Bring a dozen cookies to share for refreshments afterwards at the home

of Stuart and Linda Voss at 38 Hillcrest Avenue from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Poinsettias and wreaths will again beautify the Sanctuary. If you would like to give an honorarium or memorial, please place your order in the church office by Monday, December 12th. Poinsettias are \$14.00 each. Wreaths are \$20.00.

Dan Ladue and Pastor Kathy are leading an **evening study group** on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Youth Director's office. The study is on the book *Love Wins; A Book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived* by Rob Bell. Books are available on Amazon.

Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 18th - Christmas Pageant ONE SERVICE at 10:30

Sunday, December 18th - Christmas Candlelight Concert 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 20th - Christmas Caroling 7:00 p.m. at Lakeforest

Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Children's Service at 4:00

Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th - Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School's Advent Festival: Saturday, December 17th from 10:30-1:30. In the morning we will have a dress rehearsal for Sunday's pageant. At noon we will break for lunch. From 12:30-1:30 join in a Christmas sing-a-long, crafts, and games.

Local Mission Christmas Tree Ornament Project - Thank you to all who took colored ornament tags from the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall to help in the Local Mission Council project to provide Christmas gifts for the children in some of the families served by the Department of Social Services. Gifts were to be returned today, under the tree in Fellowship Hall. If you forgot to bring the gift today, please get it to the church office by **noon on Tuesday, December 13th**. The gifts should be unwrapped, with both parts of the ornament tag taped to it. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Bunnell or Nancy Olsen.

Church Family Meeting: Tuesday, December 20th from 5:30-6:30. All families are invited to join in the conversation and share their thoughts and any concerns. A soup and bread meal will be provided for dinner, we'll eat while we talk. Afterwards join us for caroling, a

wonderful family tradition we all can share in. If you can't make it, please get an agenda ahead of time and fill in your thoughts so they can be shared at the meeting. See Marianne Wilson for questions, agenda, or last meeting's minutes.

Did you miss worship one Sunday? Misplace your copy of the *Pulse*? Newsletters and bulletins are posted on the church website, www.presbyplatt.org Just click on the tab. Videos of sermons are also on the site; scroll down and click on the photo for “sermon archives.”

The **Praise Band** will provide music for the Christmas Pageant in worship on December 18 at 10:30 a.m. Thank you to all who have taken part in this service over the last several years. Today we will have the last Praise and Worship Service at 11:30 a.m. The Praise Band has planned special music for this final service. Please come and join us!

The session has approved a request from the Nurture Council to change the schedule for Sunday School to provide more time for families and children to go to coffee hour after the 9:30 a.m. service, 10:45 a.m. Praise Time 11:00 -11:45 a.m. Sunday School.