

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

8:30 & 11:00 AM

December 13, 2009

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

“The Wexford Carol”
Traditional 17th Century Irish Carol

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

(Please sign the Welcome Pads at the end of each pew)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

8:30 - #53 v. 1

“What Child Is This”

Greensleeves

11:00 – Choral Introit

“C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S”

Carson & Arnold

Children’s Choir; Michalee Christy, Director; Laura Ackley, Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 12:2, 5

ALL: 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.

LEADER: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

*HYMN #48

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Es Ist Ein’ Ros’

*CONFESSION OF SIN (unison)

Holy God, on this third Sunday of Advent we are in the midst of our busy Christmas preparation. But in this moment we confess our fear that perhaps we prepare in the wrong ways. We are busy with gifts, parties, Christmas cards, cookies and decorations...and yet there is an emptiness and longing in our hearts. We confess we have not pondered the candles we light, the carols we sing, or the scripture we hear. (Silent Confession)

Merciful God, may we know again we are forgiven. And help us to step back from the busyness and noise of all the Christmas preparation to see and hear the wonder, beauty and joy. This we pray in the name of the One who comes again, Jesus Christ. Amen.

#*CONFESSION RESPONSE

#44 v.4

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*ASSURANCE RESPONSE

#23 refrain

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Heather Gill

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 12:1-6 (p. 607)

THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT: JOY

8:30 – Barney & Carol Scholl

11:00 – Ina Frazier & Barb McCullough

ADVENT CANDLE HYMN #40 v. 2 “Joy to the World!”

Antioch

#ANTHEM 8:30

“Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song)”

A. Grant & C. Eaton

Carol Scholl

11:00

“The Animals’ Song”

Vicki H. Wright

Children’s Choir; Michalee Christy, Director; Laura Ackley, Piano

#THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

(Children 0-4 years return to the nursery, and children grades K-5 are dismissed to “Children in Worship.”)

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:7-18 (p. 55)

THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE OLDER DISCIPLES

Dr. Hink

“Twas...A Few Days Before Christmas”

December 13th
 8:30 & 11:00 AM Services
 Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM	Worship	Chapel
9:15 & 10:30 AM	Coffee Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
9:30 AM	Sunday School K-Adult	
10:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:30 AM	Children's Choir Practice	3 rd Floor
11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
12:10 PM	Children's Christmas Party	Fellowship Hall
12:10 PM	Deacons' Meeting	Room #206
6:00 PM	Youth Musical Dinner for All	Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM	Youth Musical - "A King is Coming to Town"	Sanctuary

Monday, December 14

12:00 Noon	Mary/Martha Circle	Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts	Scout Room

Wednesday, December 16

6:00 PM	Carillon Choir Rehearsal	Room #206
7:30 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Room #303

Thursday, December 17

10:30 AM Advent Staff worship & lunch

Friday, December 18

6:00 PM Pairs & Spares Christmas Party Laura Ackley's home

December 20th
 11:00 AM Service only
 Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Worship & Arts Sunday

9:15 & 10:30 AM	Coffee Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
9:30 AM	Sunday School K-Adult	
9:30 AM	Boar's Head Committee	Library
10:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
12:10 PM	Boar's Head Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM	Session Meeting	Room #206

The flowers are given in memory of
Mrs. James M. (Helen Sebes) Longley

WELCOME! On this third Sunday of Advent, we encourage everyone to think often about God's gift to us in Christ. What love God has for each of us! And what love we should have for one another! Welcome in the name of the Lord.

IN THE NURSERY this morning our caregivers, Brenda Hall, Tracy Plyler and Jim Wolf, will care for our youngest believers.

CHILDREN IN GRADES K-5th, under the direction of Debbie Derrenbacher and Karen Wood, will be dismissed to the "Children in Worship" program following the "Good News for Children." Children can be picked up in Room #315 following worship. Children 0-4 years old are invited to participate in the nursery program.

SPECIAL THANKS TO... Michalee Christy and Laura Ackley for their work with our Children's Choir, and to parents who have helped their children share in Children's Choir.

THANK YOU to Carol Scholl for her lovely music at the 8:30 service, to our Children's Choir for their lovely music this morning, and to Michalee Christy, Laura Ackley, Anna Messina and Lindsay Buxton for all their dedication in working with our children. God bless you!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Operations: 138 pledges for \$159,039

Mission: 57 pledges for \$29,381

Our goal is 180 pledges (or about 50% of possible pledges). Please return your Pledge Card to the church office ASAP. Additional Pledge Cards are available.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS MUSICAL & DINNER: Tonight @ FPC, the youth will host a dinner at 6:00 PM and put on our youth Christmas musical, "A King is Coming to Town," at 7:00 PM. All are welcome and invited to come and share in this festive event, which is sure to put you in the true Christmas spirit.

PAIRS & SPARES: Come celebrate the Holidays on Friday, December 18th at 6:00 PM at Laura Ackley's home (384 E. State St., Sharon). Bring an appetizer to share. Park in the Buhl Mansion parking lot (just not in the reserved spots, please) and walk behind the mansion to the house. RSVP to the church office.

ADVENT SCHEDULE @FIRST:

12/20 – Next Sunday – Worship & Arts Sunday. **Worship at 11:00 AM only.**

12/24 – Christmas Eve:

7 PM – Family and Friends Service – Nativity pageant, candles and carols.
Nursery care available.

11 PM – Holy Night Service – Communion, meditation, candles and carols.

BOAR'S HEAD LUNCHEON will be next Sunday, December 20 immediately following the 11 AM service. Preview our 2nd Annual Boar's Head Festival (Saturday, January 16th at 3:30 PM) and see highlights from our 1st Festival. Free will donation will be gratefully accepted. There will be food, fellowship and music. Everyone is welcome!

REMINDER – The Boar's Head Committee will meet on Sunday, December 20th at 9:30 AM in the Library.

WE ARE GOING CAROLING to Juniper Village (the former Shenango Inn) on Monday, December 21st and YOU are invited to join us. We will sing Christmas carols and Susan Wolf will tell the Christmas story as only Susan can. It's lots of fun and children, youth, and adults are welcome to join in. Meet at Juniper Village at 5:50 PM. Help us brighten the Christmas season for the residents at Juniper Village.

DECK THE HALLS and support missions with discounted crafts available in the PW Crafters Showcase, located in Fellowship Hall. See Nina Joyner or Sally Goodwin with questions or donations.

CALLING ALL BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL CAST MEMBERS: We would like to hold a dress rehearsal on Sunday, January 10th right after church. We will gather in Fellowship Hall for some pizza, change into our costumes and have a run through. Then on the day of the performance – Saturday, January 16th, we will meet at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall already dressed and ready to go. We'll have a brief rehearsal, enjoy a light meal together and get ready for the 3:30 PM performance. Look forward to seeing you all then and thanks for being part of the community wide celebration. It is not too late to join the cast. See Paula Haehnel or Robyn in the church office.

2010 MISSION YEARBOOKS OF PRAYER are available in the church office for \$5.50.



THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE

2010 will be a special year in the life of First Church. As an entire congregation, we will be setting out on an adventure together. We will be reading through the whole Bible in one year. Here is your chance to:

Read the entire Bible on a systematic basis

Become familiar with the book that has influenced the lives of millions from ancient times to the present

Draw strength and encouragement for your daily life

Participate together with many in our congregation in a joint project with a common goal

The Session and Deacons have agreed to participate in *The Year of the Bible*. We are encouraging all members to join in the readings. All you need to have are a Participant's Book, a Bible, and a willing spirit.

If you would like to be part of *The Year of the Bible*, please call the Church Office and we will order you a Participant's Book. If you need a Bible, we will provide one for you.