

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SHARON, PA
600 East State Street, Sharon PA 16146

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

10:30 AM

December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Peace

PRELUDE MUSIC

Sarah Clark, harp

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

CHORAL INTROIT

“Gaudete”

Robert Batastini

Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine. [Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary.] Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story! Praise His name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Isaiah 40)

LEADER: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;

PEOPLE: lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

LEADER: lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”

PEOPLE: He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms;

ALL: he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

*HYMN #28

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

In Dulci Jubilo

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE

Hoffman Family

ADVENT CANDLE HYMN

Mendelssohn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

(2)

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer/Silent Prayer/Congregational Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Carol

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow, Look now! For glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

OFFERING

Offertory

“Earth Shall Ring”

arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Carillon Choir

*Response

“The First Nowell”

The First Nowell

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord, That hath made heaven and earth of naught, And with His blood mankind hath bought. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication and **The Lord's Prayer**

“...sins, as we forgive those who sin against us...”

THE GOOD NEWS FOR ALL DISCIPLES

Joseph M. Martin

“Tapestry of Light: A Celtic Christmas”

Sanctuary Choir; Celtic Consort; Jim & Kaye Elder, Narrators

*CHARGE & BENECTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Adeste Fideles

“Sing, Choirs of Angels”

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him...Christ, the Lord!

*POSTLUDE

“Ding Dong Merrily on High”

Sandy Feldstein

Art Reichenfeld and Bill Cooper

The conclusion of worship, and the beginning of service.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

(3)

IN MEMORIAM
Dr. Matthew G. Brown
United with FPC: October 3, 1954
Date of Death: December 8, 2011

WELCOME! On this fourth Sunday of Advent, may the glorious good news of Christ's birth fill us with love and good will.

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

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP will not meet today so that the children may remain in the service for the Celtic Christmas cantata.

THANK YOU to the Choirs, Jim and Kaye Elder, Sarah Clark, and to our Celtic Consort musicians – Art Reichenfeld, Bill Cooper, and Missa Eaton – for helping to make this worship service a beautiful and joyous celebration of the coming of Emmanuel, “God with us.”

TODAY'S MUSIC: Joseph M. Martin, the composer of the Cantata, wrote this beautiful work after a trip to the British Isles, where he heard the lovely Celtic tunes of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England. Martin was born in 1959 in North Carolina and earned his bachelor of music degree in piano performance at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Subsequently he earned a master of music degree in piano performance at the University of Texas in Austin. He is a member of the staff of Shawnee Press, Inc. as Director of Sacred Publications. He and his family reside in Austin.

ADVENT VESPERS TONIGHT, 7:00PM - This quiet service of scripture, song, and candle light will feature Sarah Clark (harpist) as the guest musician. Come and share in this special service of peace and hope in “the Library” coffee house.

STEWARDSHIP REMINDER - If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so ASAP, as our 2012 budget will soon be prepared. Pledge cards may be mailed to the church (Att. Financial Secretary), or put in the offering plate.

December 18th

10:30 AM Worship Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent
One Service ONLY

9:30 AM	Adult Sunday School Classes	
9:30 AM	Bill's Bunch	Fellowship Hall
9:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Room #303
10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
11:30 AM	Fellowship@First	"the Library"
11:45 AM	Confirmation Class	Dr. Hink's study
5:30 PM	Session Meeting	Room #206
7:00 PM	Advent Vespers	"the Library"

Tuesday, December 20

12:00 Noon	Staff Christmas Party	Fellowship Hall
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Wednesday, December 21

7:00 AM	Men's Fellowship Breakfast	Panera's
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Thursday, December 22

	Grace Notes Rehearsal	Pam's office
7:30 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Saturday, December 24

7:00 PM	Family & Friends Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
11:00 PM	Holy Night Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary

December 25th

10:30 AM Worship Service
One Service ONLY

10:00 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Room #303
10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
11:30 AM	Fellowship@First	"the Library"

ON CHRISTMAS DAY there will be no Children in Worship or Nursery offered. The service will be shorter and oriented for children.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available today outside the Sanctuary. Please help us be good stewards by picking up your set. Please do not use them until January 1, 2012.

OUR ADVENT BULLETIN COVERS are pre-printed and the company uses a different order. Therefore the number of lit candles does not agree with it being the fourth Sunday of Advent. "Peace" is the right word.

WORSHIP@FIRST:

December 24, 7:00PM-Family and Friends Christmas Eve Service
11.00PM-Holy Night Christmas Eve Service
December 25, 10:30AM-Christmas Day Worship (no 8:30AM worship)
January 1, 10:30AM-New Year's Day Worship (no 8:30AM worship)

CHRISTMAS EVE/CANNED FOOD - Please bring one or more cans of food to the 7:00PM Christmas Eve service, and put the food by the bales of hay in the front of the sanctuary when you come in. All canned food will be given to the Community Food Warehouse.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH to participate in the Christmas Eve Pageant at First. If your child(ren) are interested in participating please see Debbie Derrenbacher. Those who are already signed up will need to get a costume after church today or make other arrangements with Debbie. If your child is participating, they need to be at the church on Christmas Eve no later than 6:00 PM for a short practice and to dress in their costume.

HELPERS ARE NEEDED for Christmas Eve with the children. If you are interested in helping, see Debbie Derrenbacher.

THE CHURCH BUILDING will be open 8:00AM-4:30PM from December 26-30.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival: Sunday, January 8, 2012, 3:30 PM. A "meet and greet the cast" reception will be held after the Festival.

NEW YEAR'S DAY DINNER sponsored by Christian Associates and First Presbyterian Church will be at 12:30 on January 1, 2012. Call the church office to make a reservation no later than December 26. You have the choice of turkey or pork. A free will offering will be taken.

PRAYER CONCERNS as of Friday AM: Ralph Kilgore, Dr. Matthew Brown family, Brad Davis, Tyler Branca

TAPESTRY OF LIGHT:
A CELTIC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

By Joseph M. Martin

Sanctuary Choir; Celtic Consort; Jim and Kaye Elder, Narrators

The Light of Creation: Carols of Hope and Light

Tunes: I Saw Three Ships; Sussex Carol; In Dulci Jubilo

The Light of Preparation: Longing for the Light

Tunes: Scarborough Fair; Greensleeves

Soloists: Amanda Getway; Justin Ray

The Light of Anticipation: An Advent Garden

Tune: Brother James' Air

The Light of the Annunciation: The Holy Child of Mary

Tunes: The Holly and the Ivy; Sans Day Carol

The Light of Incarnation: O Wondrous Night

Tune: Londonderry Air

Soloist: Linda Frei

The Light of Declaration: A Celtic Noel

Tunes: Candler; Forest Green

The Light of Revelation: Carols of the Quest

Tunes: Gartan; Irby; Kingsfold; Dix; Forest Green

The Light of Proclamation: A Celtic Gloria!

Tunes: Ash Grove; St. Denio

The Light of Consecration: Bethlehem Light

Tune: Fare Thee Well

Soloist: Susan Woge

The Light of Celebration: Carols of Celebration

Tunes: Gloucestershire Wassail; Wassail Song; God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen;

In Dulci Jubilo; I Saw Three Ships; Adeste Fideles

Celtic Consort

Art Reichenfeld, violin; Missa Eaton, flute;

Bill Cooper, Cello; Pam Maloney, piano

