

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

8:30 & 10:30 AM

December 4, 2011

Second Sunday of Advent - Love

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE "In the Bleak Midwinter" arr. Gilbert M. Martin
Piano Duet

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
(Please sign the Welcome Pads at the end of each pew.)

MINUTE FOR MISSION Salvation Army Treasures for Children

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (8:30 AM only)
(A brief moment of prayer and reflection in preparation for worship.)

#CHORAL INTROIT "Veni, Veni O Oriens" Christoph Dalitz
The words may be found in verse 2 of Hymn #9.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 84:1-2, 10, 12

LEADER: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

PEOPLE: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

CHOIR: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

ALL: O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

*HYMN #48 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" *Es Ist Ein' Ros'*

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy God of peace and hope, in the busyness of our Advent preparations for Christmas we confess we often lose our way. Rather than protecting times of stillness we fill every minute. Rather than listening in the quiet we rush through the

noise. Rather than pondering the deep things of the heart we are consumed with lists of things to do. (Silent confession)

God of love, in Christ you forgive our misdirected Advent preparations for Christmas, and invite us to new life. In our journey toward Christmas may we rediscover your love for us, and our love for one another. And may our Advent preparations include times of stillness, listening and pondering the things that really matter most to us. This we pray in the name of the One who came, and who comes again, Jesus Christ. Amen.

#RESPONSE TO THE CONFESSION #44 v. 4 *St. Louis*

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE #23 v. 3 *Gloria*

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: LOVE

8:30 – Letty Stock & Robyn Ruth

10:30 – Dorothy Cornell & Jeanne Hink

ADVENT CANDLE HYMN #36 v. 4 *Cranham*

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Heather Gill

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 11:1-9 (p. 607)

SOLO (8:30) "Breath of Heaven" (Mary's Song) Amy Grant & Chris Eaton
Robyn Ruth
(3)

#ANTHEM

“Mary, Did You Know”

M. Lowry & B. Green

Sanctuary Choir

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to the blind man? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God? The blind will see, the deaf will hear; The dead will live again! The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb! Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nation? Did you know that your baby boy was heaven’s perfect Lamb? And the sleeping Child you’re holding is the Great I Am!

#THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

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

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 1)

THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE OLDER DISCIPLES

Dr. Hink

“Strange”

THE GOOD NEWS IN SONG - “Strange Way to Save the World”

Terry Leonard

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN #9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

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.**

December 4th

8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship Services
Second Sunday of Advent
Dr. Hink preaching

8:30 AM	Worship	Chapel
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"
12:00-2:00 PM	Families@First & KFC Combined Christmas Party	Room #315
12:30-2:30 PM	Youth Group	
7:00 PM	Advent Vespers	"the Library"

Monday, December 5

7:00 PM	Shenango Valley Chorale Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Boy Scout Troop #3	

Tuesday, December 6

7:15 PM	Backpack Mission – Team 1	Community Food Warehouse
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Wednesday, December 7

7:00 AM	Men's Fellowship Breakfast	Panera's
11:00 AM	Program Staff Meeting	Conference Room
5:00 PM	Grace Notes Rehearsal	Pam's office

Thursday, December 8

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

Friday, December 9

1:00 PM	CWU Holiday Tea	First U Methodist, Sharon
7:00 PM	Pairs & Spares Christmas Party	Thellman's home

Saturday, December 10

7:30 PM	Shenango Valley Chorale Concert	Sanctuary
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December 11th

8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship Services
Third Sunday of Advent
Dr. Hink preaching

8:30 AM	Worship	Chapel
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
10:30 AM	Children in Worship & Nursery: Jesus' Birthday Party	
11:30 AM	Fellowship@First	"the Library"
11:30 AM	Cana's Corner Committee	Room #106
12:30-4:00 PM	Youth Christmas Party	
7:00 PM	Advent Vespers – Notre Dame Folk Group	Sanctuary

OFFERING

Offertory "One Night in a Stable" Frazier & Leonard
Terry Leonard

*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..."

*HYMN #5 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" *Picardy*

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*#CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Veni Emmanuel*

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*POSTLUDE "Improvisation on *Picardy*" Hal H. Hopson

The conclusion of worship, and the beginning of service.

*Please stand in body or in spirit. #Omitted at the 8:30 AM service.

The flowers are in memory of
Kari Means McCullough

WELCOME IN CHRIST'S NAME on this second Sunday of Advent. Scripture says if we walk in Christ's light, we can have fellowship with one another.

IN THE NURSERY this morning our caregivers, Brenda Hall, Rosann Sauers and Cassie Nespor will care for our youngest believers.

CHILDREN IN GRADES K-5th, under the direction of Debbie Derrenbacher and Monica Dixon, will be dismissed to the "Children in Worship" program following the "Good News for Children." Children will be brought to "the Library" following the service. Children 0-4 years old are invited to participate in the nursery program.

THANK YOU to Maggie Reel, Robyn Ruth and Terry Leonard for their gifts of music.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKS for the Advent Season are available. See the ushers to pick one up.

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 second Sunday of Advent. “Love” is the right word.

TODAY’S MUSIC: Debbie Frazier, Ina’s daughter, wrote the words to “One Night in a Stable” in 1967. Terry Leonard found Debbie’s poem among some music that Ina had given to Terry, and he set Debbie’s words to music. This morning is the premier of the new song. About the anthem: for many years Mark Lowry sang with the Gaither Vocal Band. He and Buddy Green have also been part of the Gaither Homecoming Group.

“TREASURES FOR CHILDREN”: All unwrapped gifts with tags attached are due today. Please place them in the front of the sanctuary around the baptismal font. The generosity of FPC members and friends was once again in action as all 100 tags were taken. Thank you.

ADVENT VESPERS: “THE PEACE AND PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS.” Our Sunday evening Advent vesper services will continue tonight, 7-8PM in “the Library” coffee house. Guest musician will be Terry Leonard (guitar and vocals). This is a quiet service of scripture, prayer, candles and music. All members and friends are welcome.

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.

PLEDGE CARD MYSTERY – Two pledge cards have been received that have no name on them. If you think one could belong to you, please contact Shari Getway (724-981-2211 x. 7).

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP will combine with the Nursery class for Jesus’ birthday party next Sunday, December 11.

IT’S OFFICIAL! Helen & Jeff Thellman are hosting the Pairs and Spares Christmas Party on Friday, December 9th at 7 PM. Their address is 5030 Schwartz Lane, Hermitage. Take Lamor Rd. to Robertson. Left on Robertson. Right on Schwartz Lane. The Thellman’s house is second house on right. What to bring: Appetizer and/or beverage. RSVP Debbie or Shari.

OAM CELEBRITY SERIES NIGHT There are two tickets available for the “John Tesh Big Band Christmas Show” on Friday, December 16th. Price is \$31.50 each. Call the church office to reserve them.

FOR YOUR ADVENT PLANNING:

Shenango Valley Chorale Christmas Concert-Saturday, December 10, 7:30PM.
Come early for parking, and to get a seat.

Advent Taize Vespers-Sunday, December 11, 7:00PM. The Notre Dame Folk Group will lead an Advent Taize vesper service in the FPC sanctuary.
Come, and bring friends to this beautiful service.

BACKPACK MISSION PACKING TIMES & HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

In December, Team 1 will pack as usual. Team 2 will pack a double on December 13th. Teams 3 and 4 will not pack in December. The regular schedule will resume in January. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication!

SHENANGO VALLEY CHORALE’S ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERTS will be Friday, December 9 at 7:30 PM at Wallace Memorial Chapel, Westminster College, New Wilmington and Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Sharon. Tickets are available at the door.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER Dear Lord, You have brought us to Christmastime once more. May we not relish the glitz, and miss the glory of your incarnation. May we not focus so much on the parties and the presents, the decorations and the allure of the creations of humans, but instead think of Christ who bore the imprint of your very being and who carried with intensity and complete dedication your message of love and hope for us all. In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS? Christmas is belief in the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.

PRAYER CONCERNS as of Friday AM: Patti Busco, Doris Clarke, Ralph Kilgore

POINSETTIAS



Please complete the following Order Form if you wish to order poinsettia plants to be used in the Sanctuary on December 18th for \$9.00 per plant. Please make checks payable to “First Presbyterian Church” with the notation “Christmas Flowers” marked in the lower left hand corner. It will be most helpful if your check accompanies your order. Deadline for ordering is **December 5th**. Thank you.

I (We) wish to furnish _____ poinsettias.

IN MEMORY OF _____

Or

IN HONOR OF _____

Please plan to take your plant home after the December 18th service. Plants left will be delivered by the Deacons at their convenience. If you are able to deliver your flowers, please do so in order to assist everyone this busy holiday season.

I wish to take my plant after worship on December 18th.

(Circle one)

Yes _____ No _____

Signed: _____

(As you wish to appear in the bulletin)

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