

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Of Westminster



The Service of Worship
4th Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018 – 11:00 am

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude (During the prelude we invite you to center yourself for worship)

Advent Candle Lighting Kurt, Jodi, Luke and Andy Bowman

Call to Worship:

Leader: We come to glorify God, to rejoice in the One who saves us.

People: *God comes, so we might believe, so we might be blessed.*

Leader: Our hearts leap for joy! For God is coming to us in a child.

People: *God comes for those who hunger for hope,
for those who thirst for grace.*

Leader: Holy is the One who comes in God's name,
who fulfills every promise of God.

People: *God comes to walk with those who follow in faith,
to bring peace to a shattered world.*

 **Prayer for the Day:** (in unison)

*Holy God, scattering the proud, you look with favor on those the world ignores.
Jesus Christ, born in a backwater town: in you, God fills the hunger of our hearts;
in you, God lifts us from our hopelessness; in you, all the promises come true.*

*Holy One, hear us as we pray as we have been taught, saying; Our Father, who
art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sinned against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

 **Hymn:** #41 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(Words are on the screens.)

Confession of Sin:

Call to Confession

 Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

*We confess we are not the people you want us to be, God of Advent. The
very ones you favor? – All too often, we ignore them, or worse even show them
hatred. The ones you knock off their pedestals? – We continue to admire them,
seeking to emulate their ways. The drumbeat for more and more? – We give
into the rhythm so easily, we risk being sent away empty.*

*Forgive us, Mighty God who comes in the weakness of a baby. Look with
grace upon us, so we might see your love shining down. We could live secure
in your hope, we could be the ones bringing peace for our world, we could learn
to do your will, if we but welcome Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into our
hearts and into our lives.*

 Silent Personal Confession
Assurance of Pardon

 **Response:** #579 “Glory Be to the Father”
The Peace:

L: May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.



(Now please share The Peace with those around you.)

Children’s Moment

Anthem: “The Rejoicing” - Handel/Thompson

Moment for Mission: Christmas Joy Offering

Stephen Keel

 **Prayer for Illumination**

Scripture Lessons: Hebrews 10:5-10 (NRSV)
Luke 1:39-55 (NRSV)

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “Challenging but Joyous”

 **Hymn:** #44 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Words are on the screens.)

 **Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles’ Creed (page 14, *The Hymnal*)

 **Concerns, Prayers of the People:** (Prayer Cards can be found in the pew.)
Prayer Family – Price, Jill, Cooper, and Kensi Wagoner –

The Offering:

Invitation to Offering

Presentation of Offerings

Offertory

 Prayer of Dedication

Doxology: #592 (on the screens)

 **Hymn:** #31 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (Words are on the screens.)

 **Benediction**

 **Response:** “Go Forth” (on the screens)

 **Postlude**

Please note: at places marked by  all who are able are asked to stand.

As Our Service of Worship Ends, Our Ministry of Service Begins!

We welcome back for her 4th year, *harpist Kris Snyder*. Kris is a fourth-generation harper, performing in the southern Pennsylvania/northern Maryland region. She is a certified Music Practitioner, providing prescriptive music at the bedside of the ill and dying through a hospice in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and at a continuing care facility in Westminster. For more details on what Kris has to offer, please visit her website: www.handstoharps.com.

*The bulletins this morning are dedicated to the glory of God
in honor of Paul and Margo Higdon’s 5 grandsons:
Jeffrey, Ethan, Daniel, Brendan and Liam.*