

First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood Worship
3rd Sunday of Advent – December 11, 2022

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

** We invite you to rise in body or in spirit where there are asterisks **

*We invite you to read all **bold** words aloud with the community*

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Happy are those
whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
[left side] who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
[right side] **who keeps faith forever;**
[left side] **who executes justice for the oppressed;**
[right side] **who gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets prisoners free;
God opens the eyes of the blind.
[left side] **God lifts up those who are bowed down;**
[right side] **God loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the strangers
and upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked comes to ruin.
[all] **God will reign forever,**
for all generations.
Praise the Lord.

We start services with a "Call to Worship" to establish the context for worship as an encounter with the Holy One who calls all things into being.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**
Let us worship God.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of joy, each week we come ever close to you.
We feel our hearts quickening with excitement at the approach of Jesus's birth.
May our souls magnify you, as Mary's did.
May our lives point to yours, as John's did.

May we remain patient, listening for your Word and your Spirit,
even as we prepare for the Christmas celebration.

With hope, peace, joy, and love we pray. **Amen.**

***HYMN**

"All Earth is Waiting"

Unison D F#m Em A7

1. All earth is wait-ing to see the Prom-ised One,
2. Thus says the proph-et to those of Is - ra - el,
3. Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be made plain;
4. In low - ly sta - ble the Prom-ised One ap - peared,

D F#m G A

and o - pen fur - rows, the sow - ing of our God. All the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el": one whose
o - pen new high - ways, new high - ways for our God, who is
yet feel that pres - ence through - out the earth to - day, for Christ

Bm F#m G D

world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty; it
name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be, through
now com - ing clos - er, so come all and see, and
lives in all Chris - tians and is with us now; a -

Bm F#m 1-3 Em A7 4 Em F#7/A D

cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth.
whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.
o - pen the door - ways as wide as wide can be.
gain, on ar - riv - ing Christ brings us lib - er - ty.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

The Crean Family

RESPONSE #91

"Come, Come, Emmanuel"

Come, Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Come, Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Now is the time to wake from sleep—
to cast off the shroud of sin and put on the garment of grace.
Let us trust the promise of God's mercy,
for the day of salvation is near.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin:

We turn from communal praise to corporate confession, not for shame nor in guilt, but to wrestle honestly with the impact we have on each other. We do so with the knowledge of God's grace for all people.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**God of the ages, through the prophets and apostles
you have challenged us to lay aside the works of destruction
and prepare for your new creation.**

**We confess that we continue to cling to our sinful ways—
greed and lust, abuse and waste, envy and strife.**

Forgive us, Holy One.

**By your Spirit, lead us to live in a way that honors you,
proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ our Savior,
who is coming in glory to reign.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Through the gift of baptism, we are cleansed in the Holy Spirit, clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and covered by the grace of God.

Believe the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Please exchange signs
of Christ's peace and
reconciliation.*

*RESPONSE #583

"Gloria, Gloria"

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia. (repeat)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, through the gift of your word you offer us instruction, encouragement, and hope.
By the power of your Spirit teach us to live in hope, sharing joy and peace with the world;
in the name of Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

NRSVUE

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.]]

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Scriptures bear witness to the Word of God, revealed most fully in Jesus Christ, the Word who "became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). Where the Word is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the living Word is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, reading, hearing, preaching, and affirming the Word are central to Christian worship and essential to the Service for the Lord's Day.

Lectio Divina

As we read these passages, allow your mind to focus on one sentence of word—you don't need to comprehend it all! How might the Spirit be speaking to you today through these ancient words?

MARY'S SONG (responsive)

Luke 1:46b-53

NRSVUE

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
 Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
 and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

Coming to us from the worship of ancient Judaism, the psalms have been at the heart of Christian prayer and praise across the centuries. However, today's psalm comes from the Gospel According to Luke! Throughout its history, the Reformed tradition has given a special place to singing the psalms in worship. The Psalm is not intended as a reading but a response to the first reading.

ANTHEM

"Jesus, the Light of the World"

Hymn #127

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

NRSVUE

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

SERMON

Rev. Jason Dauer

***HYMN #87**

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
 tell of peace!" So says our God.
 "Comfort those who sit in darkness
 mourning under sorrow's load.
 To my people now proclaim
 that my pardon waits for them!
 Tell them that their sins I cover,
 and their warfare now is over."

2 For the herald's voice is crying
 in the desert far and near,
 calling us to true repentance,
 since the reign of God is here.
 O, that warning cry obey!
 Now prepare for God a way.
 Let the valleys rise in meeting
 and the hills bow down in greeting.

3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

from the Confession of 1967

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all.

**Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people
and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.
He expressed the love of God in word and deed
and became a brother to all.**

The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity.

**Those joined to him by faith are set right with God
and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community.**

**Christ is head of this community, the church,
which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations.**

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.

**Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing
power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving sinners.**

**The power of God's love to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord
and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.**

SHARING OF THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsive)

RESPONDING WITH THANKSGIVING

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES, GIFTS, AND GOODS

May the joy we celebrate on this day
help us to remember our many blessings.
From that rich store, let us give back to God
a portion of what we have been given.

Blessed be God forever.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have done wondrous things. Your glory fills the whole earth. You send the rain to water the land and cause the fields to flourish. You defend those who are poor and deliver those who are oppressed. Use the works of our hands to establish your holy realm, and strengthen our hearts as we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray in the languages closest to our hearts the prayer Jesus taught:

Those wishing to make offerings by electronic transfer may use this QR code or go to fpcedgewood.org/donate



**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
 and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #100

"Canticle of Turning"

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
 that the God of my heart is great,
 and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
 that you bring to the ones who wait.
 You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
 and my weakness you did not spurn,
 so from east to west shall my name be blest.
 Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
 Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
 and the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
 you work great things in me,
 and your mercy will last
 from the depths of the past
 to the end of the age to be.
 Your very name puts the proud to shame,
 and to those who would for you yearn,

you will show your might,
 put the strong to flight,
 for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
 not a stone will be left on stone.
 Let the king beware for your justice tears
 every tyrant from his throne.
 The hungry poor shall weep no more,
 for the food they can never earn;
 there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
 for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
 we remember who holds us fast:
 God's mercy must deliver us
 from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
 This saving word that our forebears heard
 is the promise which holds us bound,
 till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
 who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

INVITATIONS TO BE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

BLESSING

from the Northumbria Community

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you — where - ev - er — he may send you.

May he guide you through the wil - der - ness pro - tect you through the storm.

May he bring you home re - joic - ing at the won - ders he has shown you.

May he bring you home re - joi - cing once a - gain in - to our doors. _____

CHARGE

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of God. Strengthen your hearts, for the time is drawing near. Look for liberation, and there you will glimpse God.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Please be seated as we partake in a time of contemplation.

When the music ends, we invite you to join us in the Gathering Place for coffee hour!

SERVICE IN THE WORLD

*Christian worship and service does not end at the conclusion of the Morning Service;
we go forth to love and serve the Lord in daily living.*

In so doing, we seek to fulfill our chief end: to glorify and enjoy God forever.

**ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO REMAIN IN THE SANCTUARY FOLLOWING
THE SERVICE FOR OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO REVIEW THE 2023
BUDGET AND ELECT NEW CHURCH OFFICERS.**

Participants in this worship service:

Rev. Jason Dauer, pastor | **Elder Flo Raisig**, liturgist | **The Crean Family**, advent candle lighting
Shaun Cloonan, minister of music | **Sunny Sakai**, pianist | **The Sanctuary Choir**
John Foster, videographer

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This service may be found posted on our website at www.fpcedgewood.org, on our **YouTube** channel,
or audio only on our SoundCloud channel at www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood



Welcome

Thanks be to God for allowing us to worship with you!

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY: first, welcome! Please fill out a blue visitor's card found in the pew rack. If you are interested in being on our email or newsletter mailing lists, provide that information so we can keep in touch. We hope you consider joining us more often!

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING immediately following worship today for the purpose of electing officers and reviewing the 2023 preliminary budget approved by Session. All active members are asked to attend and vote.

BOOK CLUB MEETS WEEKLY, 10:00AM, Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apepos, 361 Maple Avenue, Edgewood, reading "In the Manger" by Max Lucado.

ADVENT STUDY...Pastor Jason continues to lead a study titled "Holy Disruption" which presents a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas grounded, not in a conventional cozy Christmas message, but through Mark's disquieting gospel which invites its readers to experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world. The group meets on Thursdays during Advent, starting at 7:00PM. All are welcome in person or on Zoom (link emailed out). You can a free eBook through Hoopla, a digital public library resource. If you have any questions, reach out to Pastor Jason (pastorjason@fpcedgewood.org).

UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS AT FPCE:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Saturday, December 17 | Steranka Flute Studio Winter Recital, 11:00AM (free admission)
Vocal Confluence Holiday Show, 7:30PM (tix: vocalconfluence.org) |
| Sunday, December 18 | North Hills Singers visit FPCE, 11:00AM (mini concert after worship)
Vocal Confluence Holiday Show, 3:00PM (tix: vocalconfluence.org) |

BLUE CHRISTMAS...Wednesday, December 21 a Blue Christmas service will be held *at Waverly Presbyterian Church* at 7:00PM. The relentless joy and cheer of the Christmas season can offer further alienation to folks already struggling with financial problems, broken relationships, or unresolved grief. This is a mournful, somber service offered to stand in solidarity with those in pain.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will take place on Saturday, December 24 at 8:00PM. Join us for our traditional service of candles, carols, and communion!

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP will be online only. There will be **no in-person service** so that families can keep their regular Christmas morning traditions. We will live-stream a special worship video presentation on Facebook and YouTube at 11:00AM.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

AH=Apessos Home, B=Basement Band Room, C=Choir Room, CE=CE Office,
GP=Gathering Place, L=Lounge, O=Office, PS=Pastor's Study, S=Sanctuary,
Sc=Scout Room, SL=Side Lawn, SR=Social Room

Monday, December 12

6:30PM Scouts (Sc/SR)
7:00PM Vocal Confluence (S)

Tuesday, December 13

10:00AM Book Club (AH)
7:00PM Session (L)

Thursday, December 15

2:00PM Writing Class (L)
5:00PM Flute Lesson (CE)
7:00PM SAA (L)
7:00PM Milepost6 (B)
7:00PM Advent Study (GP)

Friday, December 16

5:00PM Flute Lesson (L)
7:00PM Vocal Confluence Dress Rehearsal (S)
8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

Saturday, December 17

11:00AM Flute Recital (S)
7:30PM Vocal Confluence Holiday Show (S)
8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

Next Sunday, December 18

9:30AM Choir Rehearsal (S)
11:00AM Worship (S), Youth Sunday School (GP)
12:00PM North Hills Singers Mini-Concert (S)
12:30PM Fellowship (GP)
3:00PM Vocal Confluence Holiday Show (S)

How can you become involved?

As we reimagine the ministries at FPCE, consider if you have a heart for:

- Encouraging our younger members
- Learning more about God & faith
- Praising God through music
- Serving senior citizens
- Working in publicity/advertising

...please contact a member of our FPCE Family listed below for more details on how to become involved!

OUR FPCE FAMILY

Pastor **The Rev. Jason Dauer**
pastorjason@fpcedgewood.org

Office & Cleaning Manager
..... **Judy Mysels**
office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager **Rob Mysels**
building@fpcedgewood.org

Minister of Music **Shaun Cloonan**
music@fpcedgewood.org

Pianist..... **Sunny Sakai**
Sunnysakai4@gmail.com

Ministers **The Entire Congregation**



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church



*Believing we are called together by God's love through Jesus Christ,
our mission as the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is to
love God, to love each other, and to love our neighbors.*

120 East Swissvale Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218 | 412-241-4613 | fpcedgewood.org

VOCAL CONFLUENCE

PROUDLY PRESENTS

A V C Holiday

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH PITTSBURGH'S
ALL-VOICE BARBERSHOP CHORUS

Saturday, December 17th at 7:30 PM

Sunday, December 18th at 3:00 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EDGEWOOD
120 E. SWISSVALE AVE, PITTSBURGH PA 15218

NO TICKETS REQUIRED - PAY WHAT YOU CAN

EVENTS



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