



**First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood Worship**  
**Third Sunday of Advent – December 12, 2021**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & SHARING OF CHURCH LIFE**

**TOLLING OF THE HOUR**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Through long generations God has prepared a way for the coming of Christ.

**By the Spirit, God continues to bring light to illumine our paths.**

Gather in, all who seek renewal, faith, and hope.

**We come with open hearts, that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love as Lord of lords and King of kings.**

**\*HYMN #110**

"Love Has Come"

1 Love has come: a light in the darkness!  
 Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
 See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
 hear how their song of joy arises:  
 Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
 Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
 Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
 See the glow in the eyes of his mother;

what is the name her heart is saying?  
 Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.  
 Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

3 Love has come and never will leave us!  
 Love is life everlasting and free.  
 Love is Jesus within and among us.  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
 Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
 Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**

The McGuigan Family

Hear the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah 3:17: The LORD your God . . . will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love like a child upon the breast. The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.

Let us pray: God of hope, God of peace, and God of love,  
 Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world.

**God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come.**

We light this candle in hope. (*Light the first candle.*)

We light this candle for peace. (*Light the second candle.*)

We light this candle with love. (*Light the third candle.*)

### **CANDLE LIGHTING SONG**

"Hope is a Star"

(verse 3)

Love is a flame that burns in our heart, Jesus has come and will never depart.

When God is a child, there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first, and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**God of grace, of redemption, of love, we confess that we do not trust you with our whole hearts. We question your ways and seek instead our own agendas. We put our own success and comfort ahead of living faithfully. Call our focus back to you.**

**As you forgive us, strengthen our faith, that we may participate in building your kingdom here on earth.** (Silent Confession)

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

(based on Isaiah 44:22-23)

God assures us, "I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you."

**Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the Lord has redeemed us and will be glorified!**

### **\*RESPONSE #582**

"Glory to God"

1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

2 World without end, without end. Amen. (*sing 3 times*)  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

### **REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT FOR NEW MEMBERS**

#### **PRESENTATION**

Elder Flo Raisig

#### **SCRIPTURE**

#### **PROFESSION OF FAITH** (unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### **PRAYER**

## WELCOME

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

### \*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you; **and also with you.**

*(For the safety of all, please share the peace with a smile or wave from your seat.)*

### GATHERING SONG #92

"While We are Waiting"

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 50:5-9

The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

### ANTHEM

"A Cradle in the Shadow of a Cross"

arr. Kingsmore

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-24

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

### SERMON

"Longing for Something to Believe In"

Rev. Kellie Weekley-Mills

### CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE

#### \*HYMN #314

"Christ, Be Our Light"

(verses 1 & 2 only)

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. (Refrain)

## SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

### PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### INVITATION TO RECEIVE OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

[fpcedgewood.org/donate](http://fpcedgewood.org/donate)

#### RESPONSE #647

"Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart;  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we're given  
Jesus Christ, the Son.

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";  
let the poor say, "We are rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us!"  
Give thanks. Give thanks.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### \*HYMN #105

"People, Look East"

- 1 People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able;  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
- 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen

- God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Bird, is on the way.
- 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.
- 5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

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### Participants in this worship service:

The Rev. Kellie Weekley-Mills, guest pastor | Elder Flo Raisig, liturgist

The McGuigan Family, advent candle lighters

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](http://www.fpcedgewood.org), on our [YouTube channel](#), or audio only on our SoundCloud channel at [www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood](http://www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood)



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

AUGUST 5, 2021 REVISED IN-PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES:

Due to the rise in cases of COVID-19 and the Delta Variant, and in response to Allegheny County moving from the moderate to substantial transmission rate, the Worship Committee has reinstated safety protocols for in-person worship following CDC recommendations as follows:

- **Properly worn masks are required for all those attending worship regardless of vaccination status**
- Please continue to observe social distancing in the marked pews
- **Congregational singing may continue while masked.** You are welcome to use the hymnals in the pews, stand and join in singing of hymns and responses. Lyrics will continue to be printed in the bulletin for those following along online.

We understand that each person is different with the possible risks he or she may have. Live-streamed online worship will continue to be available on Facebook and YouTube for those who choose to stay home until they feel safe to rejoin in person.

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!

WE WELCOME BACK TO OUR PULPIT the Rev. Kellie Weekley-Mills as guest pastor for the season of Advent and Christmas Eve worship.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING immediately following worship today, December 12 for the purpose of electing officers and reviewing the 2022 preliminary budget approved by Session. All active members are asked to attend and vote.

BOOK CLUB CONTINUES, "Hidden Christmas" by Timothy Keller, 10:00AM, Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue, Edgewood.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: Join Elder Tim Hoffman for a weekly one-hour bible study on the life of Joseph held on Zoom at 7:00pm Wednesday nights. <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/6670286724> No password is needed. Just copy paste the link into your browser and load the page. You will be automatically placed into a waiting room then brought into the main room by the host and moderator, Tim Hoffman. Email [HoffmanTL@gmail.com](mailto:HoffmanTL@gmail.com) with questions.

RECYCLE BINS are located in the last pew in sanctuary and blue bin at side vestibule entrance for bulletins, cups, (list of what is accepted is posted on bins).



VOCAL CONFLUENCE proudly presents our annual holiday show, "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," at 3:00PM TODAY in the sanctuary of FPCE. This is our first performance since our last holiday show in December 2019, and we are thrilled to be performing our music for you in-person again. We will not be requiring the purchase of tickets to attend but we suggest a \$10 donation at the door.

COVID PROTOCOL: Following the lead of choruses in our area and across the country, we will be requiring masks for all audience members, as well as proof of COVID-19 vaccination for those ages 12 and up. Masks must cover the nose and mouth at all times. Please have your physical CDC card, or a photo of it, ready at the front door prior to entering the church. If you are not feeling well, we ask that you stay home to prevent the spread of any illness at our event. Pews will be blocked to allow for social distancing - therefore capacity will be roughly 150 guests on a first come, first served basis. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we navigate in-person performances in a post-pandemic world.

ADVENT PRAYER VIGIL: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17. Advent is a time of expectation, a time where we keep vigilant watch for the coming of Christ because "...you do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33) Our Advent prayer vigil is an opportunity for you to practice the discipline of watchfulness. Friday, December 17 our sanctuary will be open from 9:00AM-2:00PM. Go to the website or if reading as PDF online, [click here](#) to sign up for your slot using SignUp Genius. People may sign up for half hour slots. You may come as an individual, couple, small group or family. More than one person or group may be present at the same time. This is a great opportunity to enter more fully into our journey toward Bethlehem.



### UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Emerging Worship/Blue Christmas

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion, 8:00PM

December 26 – Service of Lessons & Carols

January 2 – Epiphany Worship with Readers Theater

January 9 – Baptism of the Lord/Communion/Installation of Officers, Rev. Fairlight Lower preaching

January 16 – Emerging Worship, Rev. Bob Ruefle preaching

January 23 – Rev. Bob Ruefle preaching, Annual Meeting follows worship

January 30 – Jason Dauer preaching

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

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

### Today, Sunday, December 12

12:00PM Congregational Meeting (S)  
3:00PM Vocal Confluence Holiday Show (S)

### Monday, December 13

6:30PM Scouts (Sc/SR)

### Tuesday, December 14

10:00AM Book Club (AH)  
**7:00PM Session Meeting (GP)**  
8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

### Wednesday, December 15

7:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

### Thursday, December 16

5:00PM Flute Lesson (L)  
7:00PM Milepost6 (B)

### Friday, December 17

**9AM-2PM Advent Prayer Vigil (S)**  
5:00PM Flute Lesson (L)  
8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

### Saturday, December 18

9:30AM Steranka Flute Studio Recital (S)  
8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

### Next Sunday, December 19

9:30AM Worship Ensemble (S)  
11:00AM Emerging Worship/Blue Christmas(S)  
Youth Sunday School (GP)

## How can you become involved?

As we reopen, working to rebuild and 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

*Office & Cleaning Manager*

**Judy Mysels**

[office@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:office@fpcedgewood.org)

*Building Manager*

**Rob Mysels**

[building@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:building@fpcedgewood.org)

*Minister of Music*

**Shaun Cloonan**

[music@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:music@fpcedgewood.org)

*Pianist*

**Sunny Sakai**

[Sunnysakai4@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

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