



First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood
Emerging Worship with Blue Christmas
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 19, 2021

*All who are able, please stand.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & SHARING OF CHURCH LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

O Lord, O great Three-in-One, you who lives in inapproachable light,
in constant, joyous communion with yourself,

Would you draw near to us this day? Would you grant us the heavenly gift of divine joy?

As you draw near let us hear the music of heaven, your joyful singing over us,
those you have redeemed and called your own.

Tune our ears, our minds, our hearts to hear your song.

***SONGS**

"Angel Medley"

"Angels, From the Realms of Glory"

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

(continued on next page)

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Rick Masten & Travis Allabon

This Sunday's Advent wreath candle lighting varies because it is Gaudete (or "rejoice!") Sunday. As a break from the heaviness of Advent's penitential preparations, this Sunday offers a reprise from our dark longings to offer joy's glimmer of light. The Latin word Gaudete is grammatically imperative, reminding us that even in the midst of darkness, we are called to rejoice. This is also why we light a pink candle—the color of joy in the penitential season of blue or purple. Only the Christ candle is white, also a color signifying joy in many cultures, because the fullness of joy is in the Lord.

To those who live as exiles from home in a dark time, to those enslaved as exiles due to others' oppression, to those who are sin's exiles from their best God-promised selves, the Lord speaks the joy of good news. Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Let us pray:

Isaiah 12:2-4, Philippians 4:4

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid,

for the LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously!

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.*)

We light this candle in joy! (*Light the fourth candle.*)

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

"Hope is a Star"

(verse 4)

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Savior is born.

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 (responsive)

...we must confess,

We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(based on Isaiah 61:10a)

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
God has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

We believe the good news! We rejoice in God's grace.

*RESPONSE

"We are Forgiven"

We are forgiven, We are forgiven. Thanks be to God, Thanks be to God.

*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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

RESPONSE

“This Joy I Have”

This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me (3x)

The world didn't give it and the world can't take it away!

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON

“Longing for Something to Sing About”

Rev. Weekley-Mills

***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)

AN INVITATION TO “BLUE CHRISTMAS”**LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE**

We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost.

We pause to remember clearly, their faces, their voices, their bodies.

We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation, when all creation waits for the Light.

We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them. *(silence)*

We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy. We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace, shalom.

We remember that through You all things are possible.

Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into Your future. *(silence)*

We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time.

We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years, that have been heavy with our burdens. We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain. We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you, for all that we have suffered. We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone, in darkness; and in knowledge of our own mortality.

We remember that though we have journeyed far, and that, while lost, we may have turned away from the light, the light itself has not failed. We remember that though winter be upon us and though the night be dark, with the turning of the wheel the dawn will come, and dawn defeats the darkness. (silence)

We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the story of Christmas, which began in insecurity and humbleness, in a poor stable.

We remember that the loving God who came to share this life with us promises us comfort and peace.

We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.

CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE &

A TIME FOR REFLECTION, REMEMBRANCE & LONGING

As the worship ensemble plays, you are invited forward to lay cloth in the cradle and/or to light a candle in reflection or remembrance of, or longing for a loved one or situation during our approach to Christmas this week.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsive)

God of wisdom...Lord, hear our prayer,

And in Your merciful love, answer.

God of mercy and compassion...Lord, hear our prayer,

And in Your merciful love, answer.

God of grace...Lord, hear our prayer,

And in Your merciful love, answer.

God of love...Lord, hear our prayer,

And in Your merciful love, answer.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake.

Almighty God, we thank you for your constant love and for the blessings of this day. We know that even when we cannot see or feel you, still you are there. Help us to remember you and to listen for your voice in the words of family, friends, and strangers. Kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you reveal yourself in the world and in our lives. Let the light of your Holy Spirit shine like these candles in the darkness, lighting the way for all who feel despairing, lost, or forgotten, and grant that it may come to dwell so deeply in our hearts that when we leave this place it may shine on, for us and for those we meet along the way. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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

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 #112

"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

1 On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

3 When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before his grace,
then life and health comes in its place;
heaven and earth with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

2 Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad;
then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

4 All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heaven;
peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participants in this worship service:

The Rev. Kellie Weekley-Mills, guest pastor

Rick Masten & Travis Allabon, candle lighters

Shaun Cloonan, minister of music | Sunny Sakai, pianist

The Emerging Worship Ensemble:

Tim Hoffman & Lisa Segedy, guitars | Tyler McGuigan & Mandy Rineer, vocals

Johnny Hrebik & Jim Segedy, percussion | John Foster, videographer

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or audio only on our SoundCloud channel at www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood



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

IN-PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES:

While Allegheny County is in the high transmission rate for COVID-19, the Worship Committee has established 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, please 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.

WE ARE THANKFUL TO Ruth Miller and her team that beautifully arranged the Christmas poinsettias on the chancel. So that the display is full for Christmas Eve, we ask that those who purchased a plant wait until after the Christmas Eve service to take it with you.

NEED A LIFT? The Session is aware that a few of our members are unable to drive themselves to worship and want to offer some assistance. If you could benefit from a ride to worship on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office. Likewise, if you can OFFER a ride to someone, please let us know!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: If you have an article or information you would like to include in the January issue of *News from the Edge*, please get it to Judy by **Monday, December 27** so we can get it out by the New Year.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

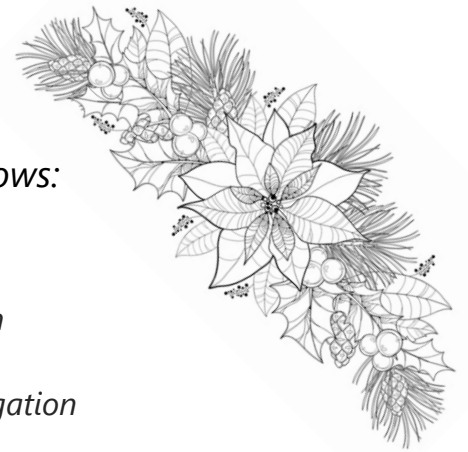
January 30 – Jason Dauer preaching



*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.*

IN HONOR & MEMORIAM

*We are grateful for the beautiful poinsettias this Christmas.
They are lovingly presented to honor the birth of Christ as follows:*



IN HONOR OF:

*Our Loving Mother, Elaine Cloonan—by Shaun, Ryan, and Kristi Cloonan
Our Pastoral Search and the PNC – by Shaun Cloonan
The Amazingly Gifted and Talented Sunny Sakai – by a Grateful Congregation
The Sanctuary Choir & Worship Ensemble – by Shaun Cloonan
The Hardworking Staff & Session of FPCE – by Shaun Cloonan*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

*Catherine A. and Joseph E. Armstrong and Claire Fisher—by Cathy Fisher
Tim Carr, our Always Faithful Bass—by Shaun and the Choir
Darren Albert Clark, I Miss You & Love You So Much—by Carol Hartman Tessauro
Helen “Grandma” Cloonan – by the Cloonan Family
Sandi Masten Cloonan – by the Cloonan Family
Parents, John and Isabelle Crean, Brothers, John and Kevin Crean, Sister, Angela Mowery
— by Bill and Martha Crean and Family
Bob Cunningham – by Nancy Cunningham and Christine Haas
Our Deacons Who Loved to Serve: Tim, Helen, Ed, Sallie—by Mary Ann Hartman
My Parents, Bill and Eleanor Elliott—by Judy Mysels
My Loving Grandparents-The Fabians & Hartmans – by Mary Ann Hartman
Former North Hills Music Co-Workers: Areta, Sue, Mike & Erin — by Shaun Cloonan
Albert & Lucille Hartman, I Miss & Love You So Much—by Carol Hartman Tessauro
Always in My Heart & Thoughts-Mom & Dad, Lucille & Al – by Mary Ann Hartman
Florence and Paul Kuhl and—by Flo and Russ Raisig
Brothers/Uncles: Bob Lawson and Dave Lawson—by Jim, Amy and J.D. Moore
Bud and Betty Lawson—by Jim, Amy and J.D. Moore
Bob Lewis—by the Cloonan Family
My Parents & Sister – by George Markovic
“Salliemom”, Sallie Monk—by “Shawhee”
Anne McConnell—by her Family
Charles McConnell—by his Family
Patti Mielke, our former “Choir Mom” - by Shaun and the Choir
Parents/Grandparents, Jim and Louise Moore—by Jim, Amy and J.D. Moore
Sisters/Aunts: Liz Mowry and Joyce Porter—by Jim, Amy and J.D. Moore
Edna and Chuck Raisig - by Russ and Flo Raisig
Parents, Thomas and Margaret Smith, Brother, Brian Smith—by Bill and Martha Crean and Family
My Uncle Bob Soderberg-Love You – by Jason Hartman
John C. Thompson, Jr., my Dear Husband – by Roberta (Bobbie) Thompson
Mae and Bob Wilkinson—by the Cloonan Family
Lynne and Paul Yester—by the Cloonan Family*