

A Communion Service of Word and Song

Εκκλησία Παρακλῆτε

Ekklesia Paraklete



1st UMC of Greensburg December 2, 2017

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering Music

He Is Born R. Hudson

Welcome and Tidings

Prelude

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People T. Albrecht

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Word of God Mark 13:24-37

Meditation in Song

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear C. Rice

Homily

WAITING FOR A SAVOR

Music for Reflection

The First Noel C. Rice

Eucharist Prayer

Sharing the Bread & Cup

O Holy Night M. Hayes

Music of Response

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella C. Uehlein

Benediction

Postlude

Gloria (Angels We Have Heard On High) T. Albrecht

Fellowship & Refreshments



Please join us in the hallway
beside the sanctuary for
a time of table fellowship.



The Nursery and Crib Rooms are open and available for parents of children filled with the spirit of self-expression.



Kneeling at the altar rail at any time throughout the worship service is celebrated and encouraged.

Εκκλησία Schedule of Musicians

December 9	Irwin Male Chorus
December 16	Rev. Janet Lord <i>Piano</i>
December 23	Mike Simoncelli <i>Piano</i>
December 30	Patty Fitzpatrick <i>Piano</i>

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent is a time to be filled with anticipation and hope.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring light to the darkness.

Advent is a time to remember that God's love extends to all people.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring justice.

Advent is a time to renew our determination.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring righteousness.

Advent is a time to strive for understanding.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring peace.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you for the promise of the scripture that through Christ, we have hope. Forgive our lack of faith and restore in our hearts the assurance that your love can conquer the tyranny of injustice in a broken world. We pray today that you would strengthen our faith in your mercy and righteousness so we can live in hope every day of our lives. Amen.

LEADING IN TONIGHT'S EKKLESIA:

In addition to the Holy Spirit

Pastor	Rev. Anette Gerber
Associate Pastor	Rev. Jill Croushore
Musician	Valerie Stipcak <i>Organ & Piano</i>

Word of God

Mark 13:24-37 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁴ “But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^[a] is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert,^[b] for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”