



GREENSBURG *First* UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 23, 2018

8:30 and 10:45 AM Worship

4th Sunday of Advent

Representing Christ as a Light within the city

*Indicates where you may stand if you are able.

**Four-digit hymns are from *The Faith We Sing* hymnal.

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE Come Down, O Love Divine
arr. Robert A. Hobby

Welcoming the Light of Christ into our midst

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please sign the welcome tablets,
pass them across your pew and back
to the outside aisle where they will be collected during the children's message.)*

INTROIT (10:45) Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence arr. G.F. Pershing

*HYMN OF PRAISE **O Come, All Ye Faithful** (stanzas 1-5) No. 234

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

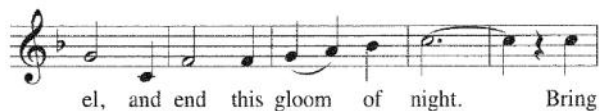


"Gesu Bambino"
Music: Pietro Yon

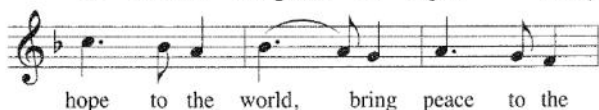
Words and Arranged by
JOEL RANEY



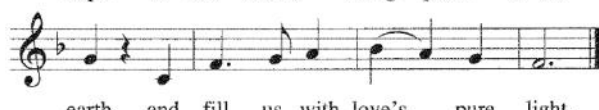
O come, O come, Em - man - u -



el, and end this gloom of night. Bring



hope to the world, bring peace to the



earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

During Advent, we see God's love embodied in our Savior's birth.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent calls us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

OPENING PRAYER:

**Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we are reminded that
“Love came down at Christmas—love amazing, love divine.”
You loved the world enough to send your Son, and now it is up to us
to love others as you loved us. Remind us that Christ is our light,
And the true source of infinite, everlasting, pure love. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*see music on page 1*)

THE PEACE

**Say to one another: “My soul magnifies God.”
Respond with: “My spirit rejoices in God my savior.”**

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

**Glory be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

MINISTRY IN MUSIC (Chancel Choir 10:45)

Song of Mary

William Crotch

CALL TO PRAYER

(stanza 1) No. 206

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord, Jesus.
(*You are invited to come forward and kneel or stand at the altar rail*)**

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

TO HEAR THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON

(Pew Bible: Page 57 New Testament)

Luke 1:39-45

*HYMN OF INVITATION

Love Came Down at Christmas

No. 242

(*Children are invited to come forward during the last stanza.*)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (10:45)

MINISTRY IN MUSIC (8:30 & 10:45)

Breath of Heaven
Soloist: Kathy McLay

Eaton & Grant

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**May we hear the challenge and the promise of these words, O God,
and may they transform our lives and the world. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

(Pew Bible: Page 57 New Testament)

Luke 1:47-55

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Anette V. Gerber

TO RESPOND TO THE WORD

SHARING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

The Offertory

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

arr. Paul Manz

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

No. 95

Praise Him, all creatures here below:

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

AND DEPART FOR SERVICE

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 238

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

(stanza 6) No. 211

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer

Our spirits by thy justice here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*POSTLUDE

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness Lord

arr. Alfred Fedak

The meeting is over. Let the service begin.

The bulletins are given to the Glory of God by Deborah Dunlap Weinstein,
in loving memory of her parents, Althea & Lawrence Dunlap.

The Christmas poinsettias are given in loving memory or in honor of loved ones.
Please refer to the insert for the complete listing.

We Thank Those Who Are Serving Today

ACOLYTE:	Ryan Barr
ALTAR GUILD:	Mary Lou Fitzgerald
COFFEE HOUR:	Sandee Zelenak
COFFEE HOUR (next week):	Ruth Hughes
GREETERS:	(8:30) Marilyn McSparrin, Ed Meadows, Laurel Sedlacko (10:45) Michelle Savage
LITURGIST:	Denny Kennedy
NURSERY:	Kathy Griffith
NURSERY (next week):	Kathy Griffith
SOUND SYSTEM:	Riley Hirst
TECH TEAM:	(8:30) Jan Stewart (10:45) Tracy Barr
USHERS:	(8:30) Bill Conrad & George Fagert (10:45) Ryan Barr, Callysta Fontanazza, Chloe Fontanazza, Aiden Hartman, Angel Sinick, Kasey Storkel

Please lift up our friends and church family in prayer:

Our shut-ins, those in military service, and all with special needs:
*Please write prayer concerns on the pink cards in the pews and place them
in the offering plate. Requests are left on for three weeks unless renewed.*

Prayer & Health Concerns: Pat Hancock, the Croushore family

Please continue to pray for our homebound, nursing home & care center members:

Brookdale Latrobe:	Allan Pierce, Dorothy Rutter Marge Trumbetta
Westmoreland Manor:	Norma Gump, Christine Shank, Charlotte Sonafelt
Home:	Art Faust

PLEASE NOTE...Hospitals and care centers no longer contact churches to let them know that
members may be a patient there. **Please contact the church office with information.**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday 12/23 **Read - Luke 1:57-80** “4th Sunday of Advent”

- 8:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 a.m. Preschool (Nursery), Children’s Sunday School (3rd floor),
Youth (3rd floor), Genesis/Vanguard class (Library)
9:30 a.m. Coffee hour (Sanctuary Hall)
10:45 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
~~6:00 p.m. Youth (CANCELLED)~~

Monday 12/24 **Read - Luke 2:1-20**

(CHURCH OFFICE CLOSSES AT 12 NOON)

- 7:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve service (Sanctuary)
11:00 p.m. Traditional candlelight service with communion (Sanctuary)

Tuesday 12/25 **Read - John 1:1-18** ***MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!***

(CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED)

Wednesday 12/26 **Read - John 1:19-34**

(CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED)

Thursday 12/27 **Read - John 1:35-51**

- 9 a.m.-12 noon Christmas Poinsettias “pick up time”
11:00 a.m. 12 Step Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Friday 12/28 **Read - Revelation 5:1-14**

Saturday 12/29 **Read - Revelation 7:1-17**

- 7:00 p.m. Ekklesia Worship (Sanctuary)

***LISTENING DEVICES AND LARGE PRINT COPIES
OF THE SERVICE MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE USHERS.
IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, PLEASE ASK AN USHER.***



A COMMUNION SERVICE OF WORD & SONG

Saturday - Dec. 29, 2018 - 7 p.m.

Featured Musician: Mike Simoncelli, piano
Worship Leader: Rev. Anette Gerber

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for your very generous participation in the “Pocket Change for a Purpose” last Sunday! We are pleased to announce that \$632.50 was collected to benefit Rev. Joe Samalenge and his family (wife and 2 young children) who lost everything to a devastating parsonage fire on Dec. 2.

Food Bank 2019 “Truck of the Month” sponsorships are ready and waiting for you in the sanctuary hall. Hurry...there are only 5 left!

We are thankful for our beautiful display of Christmas Poinsettias. Please remember to not take them before the end of the 11 p.m. service on Christmas Eve or on Thursday morning, Dec. 27, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Centering Prayer WILL NOT meet on Mondays Dec. 24 or 31. They will begin meeting again on Monday, Jan. 7, in the Prayer Room at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday morning Book/Bible Study with Pastor Net WILL NOT meet again until January 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Library.

Congregational Care Team and Stephen Ministry WILL NOT meet again until Tuesday, Jan. 8, in the Library at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. respectively.

Wednesday evening Book/Bible Study with Pastor Net WILL NOT meet again until January 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Regular Thursday evening activities WILL NOT take place on Dec. 27.

Choirs will begin again on Jan. 3. Children’s activities will begin again on Jan. 10.

Life Line Screenings will be here on Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

Take advantage of discounts and register early by calling 688-229-0469 or go online at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick up in the sanctuary hall. If you need envelopes to make giving easier, please sign up on the clipboard.

Food Pantry Reminder...all non-perishable, paper, and personal care items are always greatly appreciated, because Food Bank clients cannot purchase these items with the ACCESS cards. Please drop off all these items or food or your plastic shopping bags in the food bank cart in the sanctuary hall or fellowship hall at any time. **Mark your calendars for next month on January 11 (always the 2nd Friday of the month).**

The Upper Room daily devotional for January/February is now available in the media rack in the sanctuary hall.

Now taking reservations for 2019 Chancel Flowers and Bulletin Sponsors. Remember that 2018 reserved dates WILL NOT carry over to 2019. Please use the green form for flowers and the purple form for bulletins. Both are located in the media rack.

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Greensburg

We are so glad that you chose to worship at Greensburg First UMC. Greensburg First is a place for real people with real lives to develop and nurture a real faith. We have authentic relationships, relevant messages, and are committed to raising up the next generation as disciples of Jesus Christ. We want you to know that you are loved and accepted here. Feel free to worship with us regularly and to fully participate in all our activities. If you are new to our community or are looking for a church home, please make it a point to meet the pastor before you leave the building. Also, help us get to know you by signing the welcome tablet. We will be happy to help you learn more about Greensburg First UMC.

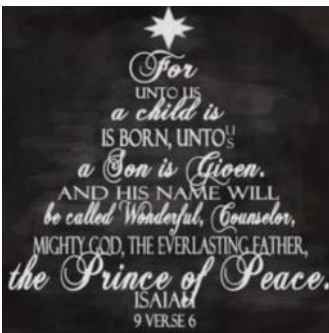
This Week's Scriptures (12/2318)

Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:47-55
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45

Next Week's Scriptures (12/3018)

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2:41-52

Holiday church office hours: Monday, Dec. 24 (8 a.m. - 12 noon)



Tuesday, Dec. 25 (CLOSED) *Merry Christmas!!!*

Wednesday, Dec. 26 (CLOSED)

Thursday, Dec 27 (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Friday, Dec. 28 (8 a.m. - 4 p.m)

Monday, Dec. 31 (8 a.m. - 12 noon)

Tuesday, Jan. 1 (CLOSED) *Happy New Year!!!*

Wednesday thru Friday (regular office hours)

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

15 E. 2nd Street, Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: 724-834-3111 - **Fax:** 724-834-8711

website: www.greensburgfirst.org

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Rev. Anette V. Gerber..... pastornet@greensburgfirst.org.....Senior Pastor
 Martha "Peaches" Clark...churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org.....Secretary
 Robert C. Wilson.....Minister Emeritus
 Janice Vandenberg and Sean Hirst.....Custodians
 Fred Pershing.....Director of Music
 Br. Jim Caffrey Jr., OSL.....Associate Director of Music
 Ruth K. Hughes.....music@greensburgfirst.org.....Organist



Mid-Week Advent Services

Wednesdays at Noon

Dec. 5 - Carol Sing

Dec. 13 - First United Methodist Talent

*Dec. 20 - Greensburg Salem High School
Select Ensemble*

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec. 16, 10:45 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

7 p.m. - Family Candlelight Service

*11 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service
with Communion*

Ekklesia

Saturdays at 7 p.m.

weekly communion service of word & song

Holiday Worship Schedule