

Fourth Sunday of **Advent**



THE PRELUDE

People, Look East ~arr. Dale Wood

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

†CALL to WORSHIP (*responsively*)

The mystery begins! Darker nights unfold and with the fading of the light, the sun weakens. Held by this frozen earth, wrapped in winter's frost, the mystery of the ancient hope is alive once more,

**For from the stump of Jesse, the dry old tree of David's line,
comes a new branch, a new shoot,
cracking through the season with a promise yet unfulfilled.**

This is the hoping, the waiting, the epitome of Advent!

Let us gather round the words the prophets spoke long ago and believe:
Emmanuel is on the way!

†CAROL of PRAISE

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

- 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 th'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 a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity;
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel,
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

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3. *Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

ADVENT WREATH (*responsively*)

Mary's cousin Elizabeth had said, "As soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy! Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord!"

In the beginning was the Word—spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

Trust the good news—God's promise is true!

The Word was in the beginning, and through Him, all things come into being.

Eternal God, Your promise is the foundation for our love.

Trust in God, wait with faith, and give voice to Christ's love for all people!

The first, second, third and fourth candles are lighted...

CHORAL RESPONSE (*sung in unison*) *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.***

A READING from the NEW TESTAMENT

Galatians 4:1-5 NIV

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

MINISTRY in MUSIC

Et in Terra Pax ~Carl J. Nygard Jr.

Choir Ensemble

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 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!

†CAROL of INVITATION

Away in a Manger

UMH 217

1. *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*
2. *The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

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3. *Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

A READING from the GOSPELS

Luke 2:8-14 NIV

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE

“Best Gift Ever!”

Rev. Kevin Haley

Worship theme: “Socks and Underwear: receiving what we need -vs- what we want”

SHARING of OUR GIFTS and HIS TITHES

OFFERTORY

Of the Father's Love Begotten ~arr. Wilbur Held

Please use this time as we listen to the music to offer ourselves to the Lord...

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

UMH 94

Praise God, all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

†PRAYER of DEDICATION

†CAROL of COMMITMENT

Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH 238

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!*
3. *Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*
4. *See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

†DISMISSAL with BLESSING

†THE POSTLUDE

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide ~arr. Wilbur Held

†GOING FORTH to SERVE

Welcome to First United Methodist Church!

Sunday morning Worship Service Online at 10:45 via LiveStream

(All onsite worship and activities are suspended until January 4)

**Please continue to check our church website
(greensburgfirst.org) for more updates.**

Let's be safe...Please consult the three local news networks for **Greensburg FUMC**, or check our church Facebook page at **First United Methodist Church-Greensburg** to check for cancellations of any of our services due to weather.

Weekday office hours cancellations...If Greensburg Salem school district ever cancels school because of snow or ice, the church office hours and all activities would also be cancelled.

WiFi Network Name: Greensburg First Password: Jeremiah2911



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

15 E. 2nd Street, Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: 724-834-3111

website: www.greensburgfirst.org

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Rev. Kevin R. Haley..... pastorkevin@greensburgfirst.org..... Pastor
Martha "Peaches" Clark..... churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org..... Secretary
The Rev. 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
Jessica Dudik..... Financial Secretary
Bob Coder..... Treasurer