



Peace

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

December 2, 2018

11:00am

First Sunday in Advent DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Greeting

(Please complete Prayer Concerns)

Gathering Prayer:

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

Prelude:

Call to Worship: *from "Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship"*

We come together in these dark days.

We must look to you now to light our mornings and our evenings.

We come seeking renewed joy.

We must look now to each other for our spirits to be improved.

We come carrying gifts along with the burdens of the year.

We now look within to bring tidings of great joy.

Come, let us worship God!

***Opening Song of Praise:** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"
(Prayer Concerns Collected)

#2

Lighting of the Advent Candle

What are these candles for?

These Advent candles remind us of God's love in Jesus Christ.

Why are there five candles?

We will light a new candle each Sunday from now until Christmas Eve.

What is the point of doing this?

Because the old proverb is true:

"What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I understand."

As we light our Advent candles, may they bring us together in the warm light of God's love.

The Gospel of Luke speaks about the future:

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth, distress among nations. People will faint from fear and foreboding,"

Because our world is full of fear and distress,

We light our first candle,

Trusting that Jesus Christ is alive on earth

And that the Spirit of the Christ lives among us.

(Light the first candle)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE is from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) and is reproduced by permission. ©2007 by Brian Wren

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

***Call to Confession**

Seeking the wisdom of the Lord, let us consider how we have lived, confessing our sins and trusting in the mercy of God.

***Prayer of Confession**

Unison

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

The mercy of our God triumphs over judgment through our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, who has pleaded our cause, forgiven our sin, healed our sickness, and delivered us from evil.

Gloria Patri: "Glory Be to the Father"

#579

Time With Young Disciples

Anthem: "Emmanuel"
(The Choir)

(arr. David Lantz III)

LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Sermon: "The Name of Righteousness"

The Rev. Leslie Latham

***Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

Unison

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into

heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of Response: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

#8

RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Invitation to the Offering

God is ever faithful and has blessed us with so much. With grateful hearts, let us offer back to God what we have, with love and thanksgiving.

Offertory:

***Praising God's Goodness - Doxology**

#592

***Prayer of Dedication:**

Unison

God of wisdom, may this offering serve as a powerful witness to this world in need. Guide us as we administer the gifts that you have given us for the building of your kingdom. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Hymn Before Communion:** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

#5

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (see insert)

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.

Communion of the People

(The congregation will walk down the center aisle, take the bread, dip it into the cup and eat.)

***Prayer after Communion**

Unison

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven: your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him, and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD***Hymn of Sending:** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

#9

Benediction**Postlude:**

* Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP AIDS:

Large Print Bulletins, Hymnals & Hearing Devices – available from ushers.

Children's Sanctuary - at the rear of the church

Baby Changing Tables - in both rest rooms of Church School Building.

Deacon's Prayer Chain - To activate Prayer Chain call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319.

New Prayer Concerns or Joys

1.

2.

3.

Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week: Tim, Nancy Bassett's son-in-law having eye surgery and two deaths in the family

Continuing Prayers: Scott Greenawalt, Pat & Box Erisman, Alvin Marohn and Kris Yettra.

Prayers and caring for our homebound: Marge Klinger; Georgia Anson; Fay Tag; Doris Carlson; J. Robert Weber; Ruth Weber; Richard Weber; Alice Weber; Bob Palfi; Lillian Simon; Joy Welch; Wilma Bender; Margaret McBride; and Sue Strasser

Because God's love is for all - everyone is always welcome.

We pray that God may bless you with peace, inspiration, and strength. We are a community, seeking to learn what it means to follow Jesus. No matter what you may be going through, no matter where you may be on your faith journey – you are most welcome here! If you would like more information, please call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319

LITURGIST: Diane Charsley

GREETERS: Jackie Rexford & Jack Seager

USHERS: Team 2

STEPHEN MINISTERS: are always available to provide confidential support in times of need. Simply call Janet Haacker @ 694-4290.

REMINDER: Please call Pastor Leslie @ 490-0420 or Judy in the office @ 692-1319 if you or a loved one are ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

Angel Tree Gift Tickets: The tickets are available in the Narthex. Attach the ticket to the unwrapped gift and return it no later than December 9. Monetary donations are also welcome and can be given to Billy Welch. Please do not spend more than \$15.00 on your gift.

Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive: Our church is one of the drop-off sites for jars of peanut butter, jelly, and marshmallow fluff in the Tonawandas. Won't you consider donating to a needy family in the Tonawanda area. There is a tote in the Narthex for your donation. See Cheryl Yurek for more information.

Tonawanda City Schools Holiday Party Food Drive: Please help the Deacons collect food for those children in need right here in our own city. Bags will be filled with particular food items and will be given to the kids at the holiday party to take home to have during their Christmas break. In the spirit of Christmas, won't you please consider donating to this worthy cause. Tickets will be given out and the food items need to be returned to the church by December 9.

Christmas Memorial Flowers: It's not too early to be thinking about Christmas poinsettias. The Deacons will be selling flowers on December 2, and December 9. The cost is \$9.00.

Charlie Brown Mitten Tree: Our Charlie Brown Mitten Tree will be accepting your beautiful handmade or purchased hats, mittens or scarves. These warm items will be distributed to needy children in Tonawanda.

Advent Worship: This worship/communion service will take place in the Parlor on the Sunday mornings during Advent at 8:30am on December 2, December 9, December 16, and December 23.

Advent Adventure Workshop: Saturday, December 8 from 9am-12noon. Bring your kids to church for our Advent Adventure. There will be gift making, a game or two, a story, decoration making, a snack, and of course, fun. Sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

Presbyterian Women's Annual Christmas Tea: Sunday, December 9 at 12:15pm in the parlor. All women of the church are invited to attend, (men are welcome too). Come and enjoy yourself with lots of treats and fellowship. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Cookie Exchange & Open House: Saturday, December 15 from 1pm-3pm. You are all invited to Pastor Leslie's Annual Cookie Exchange and Open House. Feel free to bring a dozen cookies to exchange and there will be plenty of food and beverages to go around. The address is: 51 Rockne Road, Town of Tonawanda.

Hunger Sunday – Don't forget that the third Sunday of the month is **Hunger Sunday – the next one is December 16.** Food and cash donations are welcome and proceeds are donated to the Twin Cities Community Outreach. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Caroling at DeGraff Skilled Nursing: Sunday, December 16 at 2:00pm. All are invited. Lunch will be provided after worship. See Billy Welch for details.

Blue Christmas Ecumenical Worship Service: Monday, December 17 at 7pm. This will be held at Church of Nativity at 1530 Colvin Blvd, Tonawanda. All are invited.

Service of Blessing and Healing: Wednesday, December 19 @ 6:30pm at First Presbyterian Church 149 Broad Street, Tonawanda, will hold an evening service devoted to healing and wholeness, which will include communion. This is a "come as you are" service, open and welcoming to all who seek wholeness for their lives, Presbyterian or otherwise. Please join us in the sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship: Monday, December 24 at 8pm. This worship will also include communion by intinction. All are invited.

Memorial Flowers: Starting on January 1, 2019, the cost of the memorial flower arrangements has increased to \$35.00. This is due to the rising cost of materials. Contact Laura Marohn for details or to schedule a date for your memorial flower arrangement.

SewREDI Buffalo: Mission and Outreach Committee has invited this organization to our church on Sunday, December 16 from 12pm-1pm. This group teaches Buffalo's refugee community how to sew and provides opportunities for self-sufficiency. They will have available for sale their handmade goods.

Youth Group Chili Cook-Off and Basket Raffle: Saturday, January 19. Details to follow.

Distinguished Speaker Series: Mission and Outreach Committee are restarting this program on Wednesday, January 23 at 7pm in the Parlor. Come and meet Amy Betros from St. Luke's Mission. She Will talk about her faith journey and how she came to start her mission at St. Luke's Church in Buffalo.

December 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Hanging of the Greens 9:30a Circle II Bag Sale 10a-12p
2 Advent Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship/Communion 11a	3 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	4	5	6 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p Worship 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	7 UFO 7P	8 Children's Advent Adventure 9a-12p
9 Advent Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Presbyterian Women's Annual Christmas Tea 12:15p Angel Tree Gift Shopping 12:15p	10 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	11	12	13 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	14 UFO 7P	15 Cookie Exchange & Open House at Pastor Leslie's House 1p-3p