



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN MORRISTOWN

December 22, 2019
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Celebration of Worship

Prelude

Miniature in E minor

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Kevin Graf, organ

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Amber and Adriana Hummer

One: As we light our fourth Advent candle, we pray for the holy love of God.
Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Love.

Hymn 88, v. 5 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*** Call to Worship** (*responsively*)

One: Look, O house of David! The Lord will give you a sign:

Many: the young woman shall bear a child;

One: she shall name him Immanuel—

Many: God is with us.

One: Listen, O house of David! The Lord draws near.

Many: With love in our hearts, let us worship God.

*** Hymn 107**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Rejoice, Rejoice

Confession and Pardon

The Reverend Sarah Green

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of hope, you are both tender and mighty – a shepherd we can trust.
You call to us and gather us. You feed us and bid us rest in your care. Still

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

we have fear within and fail to seek you when we are lost. Still we struggle against you – refusing your comfort and ignoring your commands. Renew us and restore us, Lord of hosts. Show us the light of your face that we may be saved. Amen.

Kyrie: Hymn 94, v.1

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Jefferson

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*)

One: Behold, I create a new heaven and a new earth.

Many: The former things shall not be remembered, even for an instant.

One: Be glad. Rejoice forever in what I create.

Many: Behold, I create a rejoicing and joyful people.

One: Your sins are forgiven.

*** Response: Hymn 95**

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Prepare the Way

*** Passing of the Peace**

A Time for Young Christians

Alexandra Mead

Reception of New Members Joyce Hayward, Donna & Henry Passarotti, Kim De Souza & Douglas Shelley, Monika & Scott Stebbins, and Luke Stebbins

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

God, source of all light, by your Word you give power and light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-14

(Old Testament, page 598)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

A Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

The Chancel Choir

Deb Fallon, Amanda Agnew, Sam Brusco, Steven Gaden – Quartet

Of one that is so fair and bright, velut maris stella (as a human star), brighter than the day is light, parens et puella (parent and daughter): I cry to thee, thou see to me, Lady, pray thy Son for me, tam pia (so holy), that I may come to thee, Maria! All this world was forlorn, eva peccatrice (Eve is sinful), till our Lord was y-born, de te genetrix (according to the Mother). With ave it went away darkest night, and comes the day, salutis (salvation); the well springeth out of thee, virtutis (powerful virtue). Lady flower of everything, rosa sine spina (rose without a thorn), thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King, gratia divina (divine grace), of all thou bearest the prize, Lady, queen of paradise, electa (chosen): maid mild, mother es effecta (for accomplishment).

Second Scripture Reading:

Matthew 1:18-25

(New Testament, page 1)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Kingdom Power

Rev. Dr. Smazik

* Hymn 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

Greeting/Special Recognition/Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

(Please sign and pass the friendship pad, found in the pew, to the person next to you. Offering envelopes and prayer request cards are located in the pew pockets for your convenience. Cards will be collected with the offering.)

Offertory

Virga Jesse

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

The Chancel Choir

The rod of Jesse has blossomed: a virgin has begotten One who is both God and man; God has restored peace, reconciling in himself the lowest to the highest. Alleluia!

* Doxology: Hymn 607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People & Dedication of Christmas Joy Offering

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.

* Hymn 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

* Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

Kevin Graf, organ



Christmas Eve Services

4 p.m. – Family Service with Bel Melodia, Bel Canto, and Tower Choirs

7 p.m. – Traditional Service with Chancel Ringers and Chancel Choir

11 p.m. – Ringing in of Christmas with Ringers on the Green and Chancel Choir

Thank you to all who served in this worship, but especially to our acolytes, Abby Ewing and Jonah Perelman and to Valerie Kessler and Susan Hubbard for hosting Fellowship Hour. Thank you as well to those who decorated the Church on the Green and the Parish House for Christmas.

The Poinsettias for Christmas are funded by gifts from members and friends of the Presbyterian Church.