

CLARK COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 3, 2017

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We welcome each of you to today's celebration! In each **bold area**, you are invited to participate. With each * (asterisk), please stand if you are able.

GATHERING TOGETHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

OPENING RESPONSE Based on Romans 13:11-12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Based on Isaiah 64:1-4
Reader One: Isaiah the Prophet cried out to God, I wish you would open the heavens that separate us and come down, making the mountains quake because you are here. Make your name known to all who are against you. Make the nations tremble because of your presence.
Reader Two: You came before and did awesome deeds that we did not expect; you made our world shake at the sight of you. In all the history of the world, no ears have heard and no eyes have seen any God other than you.
Reader One: You work for those who wait for you.
Reader Two: We wait and hope, as we light this candle.
All: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!

*PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE#152: "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God our Maker, we confess
that we are not ready to meet you.
We study the trends of our times
and ignore the signs of your reign.
We trust in things that pass away
and forget your eternal promise.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Strengthen us, by your hand,
so that we may be ready for that day
when you come to reign in glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE WITH PRAISE (Gloria Patri)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 13:24-37

SERMON "Stay Tuned"

*RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.18

L: God expressed love for all humankind
through Israel, whom God chose
to be a covenant people
to serve him in love and faithfulness.

**P: When Israel was unfaithful,
God disciplined the nation with judgment
and maintained the covenant
through prophets, priests, teachers
and true believers.**

L: These witnesses called all Israelites
to a destiny
in which they would serve God faithfully
and become a light to all nations.

**P: This same witness proclaimed
the coming of a new age,
and a true servant of God
in whom God's purpose would be realized.**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #609: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE (Doxology)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table
The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving (including the Prayers of the People)

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: Holy and Gracious God, we praise you for the creation of the world and of us. We praise you that your love is steadfast and the promises you have made to your people ring true. We praise you that your works are great and your ways are just and true. You alone are holy.

**P: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty;
who was, and is, and is to come.**

L: Holy and gracious God, we praise you for your Son Jesus Christ. We praise you that in His coming, Your promises given by the prophets were fulfilled and the day of our deliverance has dawned. We rejoice in hope as we look for the triumph of his kingdom, when he comes again.

P: We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

We await his coming in glory.

L: Holy and gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ that we might be one in ministry with all people in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us. Send us out to be the body of Christ in the world caring for those in need—for those who mourn, those who suffer ailments, and for all those we name before you now. . .O God, give us strength to serve you faithfully,

**P: Until the promised day of Christ's coming
when we will all sit together at the heavenly banquet
and feast with you. Amen.**

Breaking of Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Closing Prayer

*SENDING HYMN

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

LITURGIST
CLARK COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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GATHERING TOGETHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

OPENING RESPONSE Based on Romans 13:11-12 (*to be read by the liturgist*)
You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Come let us worship God.

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Reader One: Isaiah the Prophet cried out to God, I wish you would open the heavens that separate us and come down, making the mountains quake because you are here. Make your name known to all who are against you. Make the nations tremble because of your presence.
Reader Two: You came before and did awesome deeds that we did not expect; you made our world shake at the sight of you. In all the history of the world, no ears have heard and no eyes have seen any God other than you.
Reader One: You work for those who wait for you.
Reader Two: We wait and hope, as we light this candle.
All: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!

*PRAYER (*to be prayed by the liturgist*)
God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make the mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! But you, will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead you are born among us as an infant. Instead you show how to love is made in perfect weakness. So, we will stay alert, or at least we will try, because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE#152: "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

*CALL TO CONFESSION (*to be read by the liturgist*)

Like a faded, dried leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life. In the strength of this assurance of God's restorative and renewing love, let us confess our sins first in a time of silent prayer for our sins as individuals and then in a time of prayer said in unison for our sins as a community. Let us pray...

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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that we are not ready to meet you.
We study the trends of our times
and ignore the signs of your reign.
We trust in things that pass away
and forget your eternal promise.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Strengthen us, by your hand,
so that we may be ready for that day
when you come to reign in glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*to be read by the liturgist*)
The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!

*RESPONSE WITH PRAISE (Gloria Patri)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

10 AM @ Clark Community Presbyterian Church: Informal worship including a children's Christmas play.

7:30 PM @ Millersburg First Presbyterian Church: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY: This year we will be holding a Christmas play starring children from Clark and Millersburg Presbyterian Churches. Practice begins on December 3rd at Noon and will last approximately one hour. Practices will take place each Sunday at noon until the day of the program. The play will be held on December 24 at 10 AM at Clark Community Presbyterian Church as part of our Christmas Eve worship. Please come. Children of all ages are welcome.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, DECEMBER 10 (IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP): There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship for the purposes of electing officers and voting to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective January 28th.

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