

MILLERSBURG FIRST 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

PROCESSION OF THE GREENS #8: "Lift Up Ye Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

*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 #9: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*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)

Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. (repeat tune, singing "amen")

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 #5: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts and debtors)

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN #20: "Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night"

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (Insert): "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

POSTLUDE

Worship Participants for Sunday, December 3, 2017

Pastor: Rev. Burnetta Armour Children's Ministry Director: Shayla Fisher

Choir Director: Jed Baker Pianist: Brooke Hershberger

Liturgist: Nikki Roach Nursery: Tom and Laurie Vaughn

Ushers: Dave and Kate Findley

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

Liturgist: John Estill

Nursery: Volunteer

Ushers: Tom and Jr. Vaughn

LITURGIST
MILLERSBURG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 3, 2017
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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSION OF THE GREENS #8: "Lift Up Ye Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

***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** *(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 #9**: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

***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**

**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 *(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)

Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
(repeat tune, singing "amen")

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.

HANGING OF THE GREENS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP: The Deacons invite everyone to do a little Christmas decorating as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Before decorating begins, the Deacons will be serving a delicious lunch of assorted soups, cornbread, and dessert. Come hang greens and celebrate this season of joy.

CHRISTMAS "IN MEMORY" DONATIONS: The Deacons will be taking donations "In Memory" to go towards the artificial flower arrangements that decorate our church at Christmas time. Please mark all donations "Deacons" and send them to Amie Buzzard at 41 Spring Drive, Millersburg, OH 44654.

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