

First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood Worship
2nd Sunday of Advent – December 4, 2022

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

** We invite you to rise in body or
in spirit where there are asterisks **

*We invite you to read all **bold**
words aloud with the community*

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Rejoice and clear the path, for God is coming!

Prepare the way of the Lord!

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us worship God.

*We start services with a "Call to
Worship" to establish the context
for worship as an encounter with
the Holy One who calls all things
into being.*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of the wolf and the lamb, God of the goat and the leopard,

we gather here to worship you—

you who bring enemies together, you who combine earth and heaven,
you who know nothing of impossibility.

**Expand our hopes and our imaginations so that new dreams
of peace and unity might arise.**

May the hearing of your word, the singing of sacred songs,
and the blessing of this community awaken us anew to your presence.

With hope, peace, joy, and love we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #96**

"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand; our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The Santo Family

RESPONSE #91

"Come, Come, Emmanuel"

Come, Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Come, Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Now is the time to wake from sleep—to cast off the shroud of sin and put on the garment of grace.

Let us trust the promise of God's mercy for the day of salvation is near.

We turn from communal praise to corporate confession, not for shame nor in guilt, but to wrestle honestly with the impact we have on each other. We do so with the knowledge of God's grace for all people.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of the ages, through the prophets and apostles you have challenged us to lay aside the works of destruction and prepare for your new creation.

We confess that we continue to cling to our sinful ways—greed and lust, abuse and waste, envy and strife.

Forgive us, Holy One. By your Spirit, lead us to live in a way that honors you, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ our Savior, who is coming in glory to reign.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Through the gift of baptism, we are cleansed in the Holy Spirit, clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and covered by the grace of God. Believe the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Please exchange signs of Christ's peace and reconciliation!

*RESPONSE #583

"Gloria, Gloria"

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia. (*repeat*)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, through the gift of your word you offer us instruction, encouragement, and hope. By the power of your Spirit teach us to live in hope, sharing joy and peace with the world; in the name of Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

NRSVUE

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

We read Scripture when we gather because we dare to believe that God continues to speak to us through it. Reading, hearing, preaching, and affirming the Word are central to Christian worship and essential to the Service for the Lord's Day.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
 or decide by what his ears hear,
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
 and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
 the calf and the lion will feed together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain,
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire
 of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72 (responsive)

RGP

O God, give your judgment to the king,
 to a king's son your justice,
**that he may judge your people in justice,
 and your poor in right judgment.**
 In his days shall justice flourish,
 and great peace till the moon is no more.
**He shall rule from sea to sea,
 from the River to the bounds of the earth.**
 For he shall save the needy when they cry,
 the poor, and those who are helpless.
**He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
 and save the lives of the needy.**
 May his name endure forever,
 his name continue like the sun.
**Every tribe shall be blest in him,
 all nations shall call him blessed.**
Amen.

Coming to us from the worship of ancient Judaism, the psalms have been at the heart of Christian prayer and praise across the centuries. Throughout its history, the Reformed tradition has given a special place to singing the psalms in worship. The Psalm is not intended as a reading but a response to the first reading.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

NRSVUE

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.' "

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

SERMON

Rev. Jason Dauer

*HYMN #95

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God. (repeat)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

from the Confession of 1967

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all.

Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people

and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.

He expressed the love of God in word and deed

and became a brother to all.

The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity.

Those joined to him by faith are set right with God

and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community.

Christ is head of this community, the church,

which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations.

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.

Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.

But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing

power in the form of a servant,

wisdom in the folly of the cross,

and goodness in receiving sinners.

The power of God's love to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord
and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

SHARING OF THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING WITH THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO OFFERING OF OUR LIVES, GIFTS, AND GOODS

We give thanks for the bustling brightness of the day
and for the delicious darkness of the night.
We sit amazed at the vastness of the ocean
and the universe within a raindrop.
These gifts show us the value of gifts both great and small.
Let us share the gifts we have with thanksgiving and delight.

Those wishing to make offerings by electronic transfer may use this QR code or go to fpcedgewood.org/donate



RESPONSE #527

"Eat this Bread"

1 Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst"

2 Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to Christ and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
trust in Christ and you will not thirst.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Here we lift our hearts to you, praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

All glory and honor to you, O Lord, for the promise of your saving love—new life and hope springing forth from the stump of Jesse's tree; a world where wolf and lamb, leopard and kid, lion and calf will live together in safety and peace, and a little child will lead us.

Here we lift our hearts to you, praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

All glory and honor to you, O Lord, for by your grace you sent us a Savior—one who delights in worshiping you and brings equality and justice to people who are humble and poor, one who has destroyed the power of death and will be faithful and righteous forever.

Remembering your promises and rejoicing in your presence we offer the sacrifice of praise.

Here we lift our hearts to you, praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

All glory and honor to you, O Lord, for the gift of your Holy Spirit—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and wonder. Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this heavenly banquet until the earth is full of your glory like the waters that cover the sea.

Here we lift our hearts to you, praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

And now, with the confidence of the children of God,

let us pray, in the languages closest to our hearts, the prayer Jesus taught, saying:

**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.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

**Loving God, through your goodness
we have this bread and juice to offer,
which has come forth from the earth
and human hands have made.
May we know your presence in the sharing,
so that we may know your touch
and presence in all things.
We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared
among his community through the centuries,
and shares with us now.
Made one in Christ and one with each other,
we offer these gifts and with them ourselves,
a single, living, act of praise.
Amen.**

The many-faceted meaning of this sacrament is seen in the names given to it. The title Lord's Supper recalls Jesus' institution of the sacrament with his disciples. Eucharist (thanksgiving) reminds us that we receive all of the benefits of God's grace with joy. Holy Communion reminds us that in this sacrament we are made one with Christ and with each other. The Breaking of the Bread describes the sacramental action by which Christ is known to his disciples.

***COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

All are welcome at Christ's table.

*All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup,
regardless of their age, understanding, or baptismal status.*

*The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy,
but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love.*

Gluten-Free wafers are available by asking.

*Please come down the center aisle to receive the elements and partake,
then deposit your cup in the basket at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

**Good and gracious God,
as you have been with us
at this holy meal,
be with us in our daily bread.
Help us to be with others
in the name of the one who says,
"I am with you always,"
Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

INVITATIONS TO BE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

*BLESSING

from the Northumbria Community



May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you — where - ev - er — he may send you.

May he guide you through the wil - der - ness pro - tect you through the storm.

May he bring you home re - joic - cing at the won - ders he has shown you.

May he bring you home re - joi - cing once a - gain in - to our doors. _____

*CHARGE

Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near!
Praise God and rejoice!
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Bear fruit worthy of repentance.
And may the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

*Please be seated as we partake in a time of contemplation.
When the music ends, we invite you to join us in the Gathering Place for coffee hour!*

SERVICE IN THE WORLD

*Christian worship and service does not end at the conclusion of the Morning Service;
we go forth to love and serve the Lord in daily living.
In so doing, we seek to fulfill our chief end: to glorify and enjoy God forever.*

Participants in this worship service:

Rev. Jason Dauer, pastor | **Elder Jim Segedy**, liturgist | **The Santo Family**, advent candle lighting
Shaun Cloonan, minister of music | **Sunny Sakai**, pianist | **The Sanctuary Choir**
John Foster, videographer

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Liturgy presented with permission from *Connections: Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1*

This service may be found posted on our website at www.fpcedgewood.org, on our **YouTube channel**,
or audio only on our SoundCloud channel at www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood



Welcome

Thanks be to God for allowing us to worship with you!

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY: first, welcome! Please fill out a blue visitor's card found in the pew rack. If you are interested in being on our email or newsletter mailing lists, provide that information so we can keep in touch. We hope you consider joining us more often!

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING immediately following worship on Sunday, December 11 for the purpose of electing officers and reviewing the 2023 preliminary budget approved by Session. All active members are asked to attend and vote.

OUR TUESDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP continues to meet each Tuesday at 10:00AM at the Apossos home, three blocks from the church, 361 Maple Avenue. They have just wrapped up their discussion of the book "A Man Called Peter" and have begun "In the Manger" by Max Lucada. Now would be a great time to join if you have been considering it!

DONATIONS FOR THE MARS HOME FOR YOUTH Holiday Drive are due today. Jim and Lisa Segedy will be taking our gifts to MHY tomorrow. This year, more than ever, we know that kids are struggling and facing challenges far beyond their years. Your support throughout the holiday season is critically important, not only to fully meet the daily care needs of our children, but also to provide them with holiday cheer! Please know that we will ensure children receive individualized and personalized gifts using gift cards and monetary donations in addition to gifts that are listed on our Wish List. Your generosity will bring a smile to a child's face! Thank you for sharing the hope and joy of the season with the kids at MHY!

ADVENT STUDY "HOLY DISRUPTION" continues Thursdays during Advent at 7:00PM both in-person in the Gathering Place and on Zoom. The Zoom link is available on the church website, on the Facebook event, and in the weekly membership email sent out. You can pick up a free copy of the book in the Church Office (suggested donation is \$10) or access a free eBook through Hoopla, a digital public library resource. If you have any questions, reach out to Pastor Jason.

UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS AT FPCE:

- Saturday, December 10 Munhall Community Band Concert, 4:30PM (tix: munhallband.org)
They will be joined by the FPCE & Anne Ashley UMC choirs
- Saturday, December 17 Steranka Flute Studio Winter Recital, 11:00AM (free admission)
Vocal Confluence Holiday Show, 7:30PM (tix: vocalconfluence.org)
- Sunday, December 18 North Hills Singers visit FPCE, 11:00AM (mini concert after worship)
Vocal Confluence Holiday Show, 3:00PM (tix: vocalconfluence.org)

MCB
Munhall Community Band
www.munhallband.org
FEATURING THE CHOIRS OF
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDGEWOOD
AND
ANNE ASHLEY MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF
MUNHALL

Holiday
CONCERT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EDGEWOOD
120 E SWISSVALE AVE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15218

DECEMBER 10, 2022
4:30PM - 6:30PM

Scan Here for Tickets
FREE!
(\$5 Donation Appreciated)

VOCAL CONFLUENCE
PROUDLY PRESENTS
A V C Holiday

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH PITTSBURGH'S
ALL-VOICE BARBERSHOP CHORUS

Saturday, December 17th at 7:30 PM
Sunday, December 18th at 3:00 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EDGEWOOD
120 E. SWISSVALE AVE, PITTSBURGH PA 15218

NO TICKETS REQUIRED - PAY WHAT YOU CAN

EVENTS DONATE

WWW.VOCALCONFLUENCE.ORG

CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

AH=Apessos Home, B=Basement Band Room, C=Choir Room, CE=CE Office, GP=Gathering Place, L=Lounge, O=Office, PS=Pastor's Study, S=Sanctuary, Sc=Scout Room, SL=Side Lawn, SR=Social Room

Monday, December 5

6:30PM Scouts (Sc/SR)
7:00PM Vocal Confluence (S)

Tuesday, December 6

10:00AM Book Club (AH)
8:00PM AA (SR)

Thursday, December 8

2:00PM Writing Class (L)
5:00PM Flute Lesson (CE)
7:00PM SAA (L)
7:00PM Milepost6 (B)
7:00PM Advent Study (GP)

Friday, December 9

4:15PM Flute Lesson (L)
6:00PM Munhall Band Rehearsal (S)
8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

Saturday, December 10

4:30PM MCB Holiday Concert (S)
8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

Next Sunday, December 11

9:30AM Choir Rehearsal (S)
11:00AM Worship (S)
Youth Sunday School (GP)
12:00PM Congregational Meeting (S)
12:30PM Fellowship (GP)

How can you become involved?

As we reimagine the ministries at FPCE, consider if you have a heart for:

- Encouraging our younger members
- Learning more about God & faith
- Praising God through music
- Serving senior citizens
- Working in publicity/advertising

...please contact a member of our FPCE Family listed below for more details on how to become involved!

OUR FPCE FAMILY

Pastor..... The Rev. Jason Dauer
pastorjason@fpcedgewood.org

Office & Cleaning Manager
..... **Judy Mysels**
office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager **Rob Mysels**
building@fpcedgewood.org

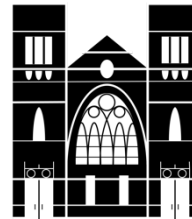
Minister of Music **Shaun Cloonan**
music@fpcedgewood.org

Pianist..... Sunny Sakai
Sunnysakai4@gmail.com

Ministers..... The Entire Congregation



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church



*Believing we are called together by God's love through Jesus Christ,
our mission as the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is to
love God, to love each other, and to love our neighbors.*

CHRISTMAS



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia plants may be contributed by anyone to help decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season. Please fill out the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office. **Deadline is December 4, 2022.**

I wish to contribute _____ Poinsettia(s) for the beautification of the Church Sanctuary for Christmas.

I would like choice of color: _____ red _____ white _____ marble

Please attach a check or money to this order form. Make all checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. **The cost is \$7.50 per plant.**

The wording: _____ In honor of: _____ In loving memory of:

By: _____

_____ I wish to take my plant after the Christmas Eve candlelight service.

