



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday December 10, 2017, 10:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship begins when the first person arrives. Please worship silently through the prelude.

The congregation reads or sings parts in bold.

*Please stand if able

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

A new world is coming. The scripture lessons for today carry a theme of promise and hope. Isaiah speaks tender words of comfort along with hope and promise that the Israelites' time of suffering is over, and a new day is coming. Every valley shall be lifted up. Mark's gospel focuses on John the Baptist, who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. In Advent, we remember that all our waiting, yearning, and hoping for God is met by God's waiting, yearning, and hoping for us.

PRELUDE

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
Prepare the Royal Highway
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Robert Powell
Robert Hobby
Camil Van Hulse

INTROIT

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
FPC Children's Chime Choir*

Mendelssohn, arr. Trachselt

WORDS OF WELCOME

(Please circulate the friendship forms found in the aisle seats.)

Rev. Robert Martin

ANTHEM

*Anthems of Love
with FPC Bell Choir*

Dan Forrest

*Allelu, Alleluia! Around us the sound of celestial music: anthems of love from the heavenly throne;
The Father Himself, singing over His children, His love-song a gift that He sings to His own.
Sing to the Lord! With a song, give Him glory! Heaven will hear and join in our praise.
The Father Himself, singing over His children, taking delight in the anthems we raise.
Sing with the sun, as it rises each morning; melody, harmony, lighting the day.
Sing through the night, with the moon and stars shining; hymns of deliverance, pardon, and grace.
Echoes of love, coming down from the Father, echoes of love that we lift to His throne.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Kim Jordan

L: Our God is the One who comes to us in a burning bush, in an angel's song, in a newborn child.

P: Our God is the One who cannot be found locked in the church, not even in the sanctuary.

L: Watch . . . for you know not when God comes.

P: Watch, that you might be found whenever, wherever God comes.

L: Let us worship God!

*HYMN 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Carl, Nicole and Katy Franz

L: In a hopeful time, a time like Advent, the psalmist declares, "Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people. (Psalm 85:8-9)"

P: "Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God, that God's glory may dwell in our land."

L: We light a second candle on the Advent wreath to remind us that God's presence is becoming brighter in our world.

P: The light of Christ reminds us to move beyond fear to caring, beyond self to neighbor, beyond protection to growth.

L: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

P: Soon the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

When we stand in the light of God's goodness, we see ourselves for who we really are, including our shadows, our brokenness and our sin. We come before God in complete honesty, confessing our sins, and asking God by the grace of forgiveness, to restore what is broken.

The Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. Having received Christ's peace, we

We invite young children to come to the front at this time.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us for returning empty-handed. You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark. You who sent John to be a voice crying, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news.

P. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri – 579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen and Amen.*

*Passing the Peace and Greetings

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Kirsten Trachsel

(Children are encouraged to go downstairs for music time after the Children's Moment. Younger children Thru K may remain in the nursery and older children will return to the worship service.)

ANTHEM

The Yearning

Craig Courtney

*There is a yearning, in hearts weighed down by ancient grief, and centuries of sorrow.
There is a yearning, in hearts that in the darkness hide, and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.
There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the First-Born of creation.
There is a yearning, for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.
Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Within our hearts the yearning!
There is a yearning, that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.
There is a yearning, when all our sorrows are erased, and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.
Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Within our hearts the yearning!*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, and as we hear your word, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-11 (page 667 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Jordan

Mark 1:1-8 (page 34 in pew Bible)

Pastor Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Silent Night

Traditional German carol/arr. Eric Nelson

*Silent Night, Holy Night; All is calm, all is bright. Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant, so tender and mild; sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent Night, Holy Night; Son of God, Love's pure light; Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

SERMON

Expect Something New

Rev. Robert Martin

*HYMN 3

Comfort, Comfort You My People

PSALM 42

On behalf of the congregation, the Pastor expresses the corporate prayers of the congregation. These prayers are for world, local and personal concerns.

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, LORD'S PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Robert Martin

Choral Response

Doxology literally means "words of glory." Doxologies have long been used by Jews and Christians to praise God. Here we honor and thank God "from whom all

OFFERING / OFFERTORY

What Child Is This?
FPC Bell Choir

Greensleeves, arr. Guebert

***Doxology - 592 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 (in unison)**

God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

ANTHEM

The First Nowell Traditional English Carol/arr. Mack Wilberg
Anne Yuan, soprano

*The first Nowell, the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields, where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!
They looked up and saw a star shining in the East, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!
Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavn'ly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought, and with his blood, Mankind hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Choral Response

POSTLUDE

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

William Henry Monk

**Called Congregational Meeting
following the Worship Service
TODAY
to elect new officers**

Worshiping With Children

- * AFPC welcomes children in the worship service, whether in the pews or in the Children's Corner.
- * Nursery is available for infant thru age 6 downstairs.
- * Please tell childcare staff about any allergies.
- * Bathrooms are located at the top of the stairs to the overflow area and in Fellowship Hall.
- * Changing tables are located in the nursery and upstairs restroom.
- * All children are welcome to attend the church service with their families or the childcare staff until after the Children's Moment.

You can watch a broadcast of FPC Worship service on Athens Community Television.

Schedule
9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
Monday through Friday
and
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday.

Minister: Rev. Robert E. Martin
CE Coordinator and Handbell Director: Kirsten Trachsel
Administrative Assistant: Jane Baker

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart
Organist: Janice Robison
Choir Director: David Tadlock

Athens First Presbyterian Church Office
9 North College Street, Athens, OH 45701

Deacon of the Month - Harold Robison
(740) 592-1450 **hrobison@columbus.rr.com**
A friend to call in time of need
Ushers - Helen King and Patrick Tegge
Liturgist - Kim Jordan
Acolytes - Alexia Gyftopoulos and Andersen Trachsel

Church Activities for the Week

SUNDAY, December 10th - Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 A.M. - Sunday School for all ages, various rooms
9:45 A.M. - Chancel choir rehearsal, choir room
10:00 A.M. - Children's chime choir rehearsal, classroom 3
10:30 A.M. - Lighting of the second Advent candle, and special music by the Chancel, bell, and children's chime choirs during Worship, Sanctuary
Following Children's Moment - Children's Church, Classrooms

Immediately following the worship service - Called Congregational meeting to elect new officers, Sanctuary

11:30 A.M. - Children's crafts, classroom 3
11:30 A.M. - Coffee and fellowship, fellowship hall
11:45 A.M. - Earth Justice meeting with Teresa Caldwell as guest speaker, all are invited to attend (*see next column*)
1:30-4:00 P.M. - Open house at Pastor Rob and Barb Martin's, 135 Lamar Drive - all are invited to stop by

MON., 11th - Noon - Al-Anon meeting, library
6:00 P.M. - Calliope choir rehearsal, fellowship hall

TUES., 12th - Noon - Bible Study, library

WED., 13th - 7:00 A.M. - AA, library
No Bell choir rehearsal
7:00 P.M. - Chancel choir rehearsal, Sanctuary

THURS., 14th - 10:00 A.M. - Worship Committee/Staff meeting, Putnam House
2:00-6:30 P.M. - Special Group, various rooms

SUNDAY, December 17th - Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 A.M. - Sunday School for all ages, various rooms
9:45 A.M. - Chancel choir rehearsal, choir room
10:00 A.M. - Children's chime choir rehearsal, classroom 3
10:00-10:30 A.M. - Trail mix assembly, fellowship hall
10:30 A.M. - Lighting of the third Advent candle and puppets during Worship, Sanctuary
Following Children's Moment - Children's Church, Classrooms
11:30 A.M. - Children's crafts, classroom 3
11:30 A.M. - Coffee and fellowship, fellowship hall
11:30 A.M.-Noon - Trail mix assembly, fellowship hall
11:45 A.M. - Confirmation class, lounge
1:00-1:30 P.M. - Caroling at The Lindley Inn, The Plains

TODAY - Earth Justice Group - Teresa Caldwell from Athens Soil and Water will be speaking with the Earth Justice group in the library today, December 10th at 11:45 a.m. about local water concerned. All are invited.

TODAY, December 10th
Following the Worship Service
Called Congregational Meeting to Elect New Officers

Christmas Poinsettias - Poinsettia plants in various colors will grace the church sanctuary throughout the Advent season and Christmas. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one by purchasing one or more poinsettias for use in the FPC worship services, please inform the church office by Monday, December 18th. The cost of each plant will be \$10.00, payable at the church office. Donors may give the plant to the deacons for distribution, or they may pick up the poinsettia following the Christmas Eve service.



Fourth Sunday Food Pantry Sunday - Fourth Sunday of each month. Canned goods, non-perishables and monetary donations are always needed and welcomed. Use the brown envelopes on the back of the pew (check Food Pantry) for monetary donations. Food donations can be dropped off at the church or church office. Contact Dan Neason (592-2823), FPC representative, for more info.

Trail Mix Ministry Assembly - Snack bags are assembled the fourth Sunday of each month, 10:00-10:20 a.m. and 11:35 a.m.-Noon in Fellowship Hall. Monetary (use the brown giving envelopes and mark Trail Mix on it) and in kind donations for this ministry is appreciated. **Trail Mix Assembly in December - NEXT Sunday, December 17th.**

December Schedule

December 17th - 10:30 a.m. - Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle and Puppet Ministry during Worship
(Trail Mix Assembly)

December 18th - Noon - EARLY Newsletter Deadline for January WINDOW

December 24th - Christmas Eve
10:30 a.m. - Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle during Worship
7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Organ Recital
7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

December 25th - Christmas Day - office closed
December 26th - Office closed