

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Fourth Lord's Day in Advent

**BALDWIN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
201 KNOEDLER ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15236**

Dr. Robert E. Walkup, Pastor
Mrs. Grace Shearer, Organist & Choir Director

11.00 A.M.

December 24, 2017

WE GATHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(Please be seated in silence)

First Organ Prelude

Smith

"O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

Announcements

Second Organ Prelude

Smith

"He Is Lord"

The Call to Worship

(Advent Kyrie)

Antiphonal

Leader: O Lord, have mercy and come to us.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Ruler of the nations, Monarch for whom the people long, you are the Cornerstone uniting all humanity:

People: *Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.*

Leader: O Immanuel, our Sovereign and Lawgiver,
desire of the nations and Savior of all:

People: *Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

THE BODY IS CALLED TOGETHER BY THE SPIRIT

***Hymn**

INSERT

“Canticle of the Turning”
(My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout)

***Advent Candle Lighting**

Reader 1: Listen to the prophet Isaiah: *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and*

with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7)

Reader 2: *We have lit three candles – for hope, for peace and for joy. Today, we light the fourth candle which is the Source of each of the others, and the very nature of God himself – the candle of love. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires; stronger than grief or despair; stronger even than death. See what love the Father has given us by becoming one with us and one for us that we might be called children of God.*

(Light a purple candle.)

Sing following verse of, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

***Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you

L: Let us pray.

Leader: God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

HIS LIGHT DISPELS OUR DARKNESS

***Call to Confession**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

***Prayer of Confession**

Unison

O promised Christ: you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. Although we are full of good intentions, we have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and truth as we pray, saying: "Our Father.....Amen."

***Silent Prayer**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Rejoice in the Good News that, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the wondrous power and love of God is poured out for you and for God's beloved world.

Thanks be to God!

The Gloria Patri

#546

The Peace

Offertory

Wells

"Christmas"

***Organ Response**

#552

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Doxology**

#544

***Hymn**

INSERT

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

HIS LIGHT GRANTS US VISION

Prayer of Illumination

Unison

Eternal God, let now your goodness appear and give sight to our souls. Increase our gladness and fill our hearts with burning love and passionate faith to receive our Savior; who lives and reigns with the

***Father in the power of Holy Spirit, ever one God,
world without end. Amen.***

First Reading Pew Bible pg. 281
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Second Reading Pew Bible pg. 165
Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Reading Pew Bible pg. 56
Luke 1:26-38

Sermon **Dr. Walkup**
“Greetings, Favored Ones”

Affirmation of Faith **Apostles’ Creed**
Hymnal pg. 12; using “Holy Spirit”

Prayer of the People

WE BEAR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO OTHERS

***Hymn** **#166**
“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

***The Benediction**

***The Recessional** **Denton**

“Rejoice, Rejoice”

****Please Stand if Able***

WORSHIP TEAM TODAY: Dennis Auth, Nancy Brown, Jeri Stoehr

WORSHIP TEAM NEXT WEEK: Bob David, Charlotte Maegle,
Ann
Downey

Bible Readings



- SUNDAY:** "Christmas Eve" Mathew 5:14-16
- MONDAY:** "Christmas Day" Matthew 5:43-48
- TUESDAY:** "Lots Of Living To Do" Psalm 16:7-11
- WEDNESDAY:** "A Moving Experience" Psalm 107:1-8
- THURSDAY:** "Christmas Is Not Over" Colossians 3:12-17
- FRIDAY:** "Still Loving And Caring" Jeremiah 29:10-14
- SATURDAY:** "The Focal Point" Philippians 1:20-22

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9 (NIV)*



Please continue to pray for our sick and shut-ins. Also pray for Jay Torrance, Jean & Charles Leuthold, Dorothy Williams, Dorothy Dyer, Norman Coliane, Patty Kulpa, Bob Knight, Charlotte Maegle, Ken Stoehr, Tom Shearer and Dennis

Mary Ellen Shenkle was admitted to Mercy Hospital last week.



If you have paid your **Per Capita**, thank you. We are extending the due date until the end of December 2017. The cost is **\$30.00** per member. So far 50 people have paid their Per Capita. Hopefully, we can get **100 percent** this year.



Newsletter articles are due by **December 20th** for the **January/February/March newsletter**. If you have an article to submit, email Margie at margiebupc@verizon.net. Thank you.



The annual reports from all **chair people** are due on **January 12, 2018** for the **Annual Report**. You can email them to margiebupc@verizon.net.



The **annual Congregation Corporation** meeting will be **January 21, 2018** following worship. This will include nomination/election and installation of officers for **Deacons/Elder class of 2020**. Officer training is **Saturday, January 28, 2018 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**. Newly elected officers and those who are continuing in service are expected to attend.



There will be no **Bible Study on Wednesday, December 27, 2017**.



Whitehall is having their **Home Made Soup Sale** on **January 14th**. Soups for January are **Corn Chowder, Wedding and Stuffed Cabbage**. The cost is **\$6.00 per quart**. A sign-up sheet is on the hall table. Orders are due **January 7th** and delivery is **Sunday, January 14th**.



The **Deacons' Soup and Sandwich luncheon** will be on **Sunday, January 7th after Worship Service**. Sign-up sheets are on the hall table for pre-ordering.



Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be tonight at 7:30 PM.



The staff at Baldwin United Presbyterian Church wishes everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas!