

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

*Third Lord's Day in Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)*

**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 17, 2017

WE GATHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(Please be seated in silence)

First Organ Prelude

Walther

"Wake, Awake"

Announcements

Second Organ Prelude

Smith

"Lord"

The Call to Worship

(Advent Kyrie)

Antiphonal

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

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open:

People: Come quickly to deliver us.

Leader: O Rising Dawn; Radiance of Eternal Light and

Sun of Justice:

People: *Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.*

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts.

People: *Come, Lord Jesus.*

THE BODY IS CALLED TOGETHER BY THE SPIRIT

***Hymn**

#231

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

***Advent Candle Lighting**

Reader 1: Listen to the prophet Isaiah: *“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the*

unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people...the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:1-2a, 4a, b, 5-8a, 9b, 10)

Reader 2: *We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today, as we light this third candle, let us rejoice that the Holy One of Israel has claimed us for his very own children.*

(Light a pink candle.)

Sing Verse 3, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymnal #147

***Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you

L: Let us pray.

Leader: Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you, now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

HIS LIGHT DISPELS OUR DARKNESS

***Call to Confession**

Let us confess our need for deliverance; not as frightened servants, but as children of the household of God.

***Prayer of Confession**

Unison

Merciful God, how many prophets your light, have we ignored because they were not what we were looking for? How many times have we breathed a sigh of relief, and turned our backs on your messengers, because they did not speak the message we expected to hear? Help us hear anew, the cry of those who would lead us to Christ. Tune our ears to your heralds, so that we might also testify to your light. Hear our prayer for the sake of him who is the Light of All, as we pray, saying: "Our Father...Amen."

***Silent Prayer**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again, I say, rejoice!
Forgiveness is real, so let us forgive as we have been forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

The Gloria Patri

#546

The Peace

Offertory

Wilson

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

*Organ Response #552

*Prayer of Dedication

*Doxology #544

*Hymn INSERT

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

HIS LIGHT GRANTS US VISION

Prayer of Illumination

Unison

O Lord, let your grace arise upon us. Open our ears to hear your Word anew, and grant that our hearts be filled with such joy as cannot be contained, but which must be shared. Amen.

First Reading

Pew Bible pg. 691

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Second Reading

Pew Bible pg. 205

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel Reading

Pew Bible pg. 91

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon

Dr. Walkup

“LED”

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles’ Creed

Hymnal pg. 12; using “Holy Spirit”

Prayer of the People

WE BEAR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO OTHERS

***Hymn**

INSERT

“Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth”

***Charge & Blessing**

***The Recessional**

Blake

“Prepare Either Way”

****Please Stand if Able***

WORSHIP TEAM TODAY: Jean Lindberg, Diane McGreevy, Vince Wisbar

WORSHIP TEAM NEXT WEEK: Dennis Auth, Nancy Brown, Jeri Stoehr

Bible Readings



SUNDAY: "Third Sunday Of Advent" Luke 2:36-38
MONDAY: "Light From Darkness" 1 John 4:7-12
TUESDAY: "Patient Trust" Galatians 6:7-10
WEDNESDAY: "Thy Will Be Done" Luke 22:39-46
THURSDAY: "Too Wonderful" Job 42:1-4
FRIDAY: "Community of Light" 1 John 1:5-9
SATURDAY: "Forgetfulness" Isaiah 49:8-16
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. John 1:9 (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 Auth.

Mary Ellen Shenkle was admitted to Mercy Hospital last week.

PER CAPITA

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.



Feeding the Community

During the holiday season, we will be **collecting non-perishable food** for the food pantry. There will be a **box by the hall table**. Thank you.

CHLOE'S FUNDRAISER DINNER: Join us for a **fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner**

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had 3 open

For **Chloe** who was born with
congenital heart defect and

heart surgeries with the latest
performed in

September. The fundraiser
will be held at **Baldwin UP**

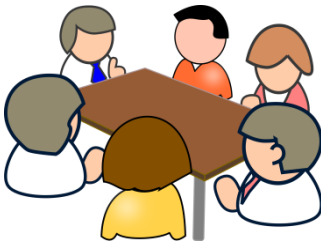
**Church's Fellowship Hall
today
at 7:00 PM. Only \$10.00 per
person.**



The Deacons will host a free Christmas brunch for the congregation immediately following Worship service today. The menu consists of scrambled eggs, hash brown, French toast, orange juice and coffee. Hope you will join us and also receive a hand-made angle ornament.



There will be a choir practice on **Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 PM** at Fellowship Hall for the **Christmas Eve- Candlelight service.**



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 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.

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During the holiday season, we will be **collecting non perishable food** for the food pantry. There will be a **box by the hall table**. Thank you.

The Session meeting will be **Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 PM**. Minutes of last month's meeting are on the hall table for the Elder's review.

CHLOE'S FUNDRAISER DINNER: Join us for a **fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner for Chloe** who was born with a complex congenital heart defect and had 3 open heart surgeries with the latest performed in September. The fundraiser will be held at **Baldwin UP Church's Fellowship Hall today at 7:00 PM. Only \$10.00 per person.**



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