

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
Third Lord's Day in Advent (A)
Gaudete Sunday

BALDWIN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
201 KNOEDLER ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15236

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Walkup, Pastor
Mrs. Grace Shearer, Organist & Choir Director
Mr. Tom Yousko, Liturgist
Rev. Dr. James K. Smith, Sr., Pastor Emeritus

11.00 A.M.

December 15, 2019

THE WORLD REJOICES
AT PROPHECY FULFILLED
(Please be seated in silence)

First Organ Prelude

Announcements

Second Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

(Isaiah 42:1-9)

Leader: *Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth*

justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

***Advent Candle Lighting**

Minister: On the first Sunday in Advent, we lit the candle of Hope as we remembered God's promise of a Deliverer. Last Sunday we lit the candle of Peace, as we remembered God's dream of a peaceful world. Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

(Light Candle)

Like the Israelites who were led in the Wilderness, we await the coming of the Joy of Ages who leads us from sorrow's shadows

into the Promised Land of God's abundant restoration. Strengthen your hearts, for the Lord is near.

***Hymn**

INSERT

"Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth"

***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**

Leader

Let us confess our need for reconciliation, 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 through him who is the Light of All, as we pray, saying: "Our Father...Amen."

***Silent Prayer**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Minister

Rejoice! The LORD is near and has taken away the judgments against you.

Thanks be to God!

***Gloria Patri**

#546

***The Peace**

Offertory

***Organ Response**

#552

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Doxology**

#544

***Hymn**

#152

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

HIS LIGHT GRANTS US VISION

Prayer for Illumination **Unison**
Teach us again O Lord to listen for angel voices whispering their songs of transcendent love. For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, let your embarrassing generosity startle us and find its way into our hearts, making us children of quietness and heirs of peace. Amen.

First Reading **Pew Bible pg. 663**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Second Reading **Pew Bible pg. 231**

James 5:7-10

Gospel Reading **Pew Bible pg. 11**

Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon **Rev. Walkup**

“Not the Greatest Showman”

Affirmation of Faith **Apostles’ Creed**

Hymnal pg. 12; using “Holy Spirit”

Prayers of the People

WE BEAR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO OTHERS

***Hymn**

#161

“Joy to the World”

***Charge & Blessing**

Minister

***Postlude**

****Please Stand if Able***

WORSHIP TEAM TODAY: Jeri Stoehr, Rose Marie Neill, Vince Wisbar

WORSHIP TEAM NEXT WEEK: Dottie Fisher, Bob David, Cheryl David

Bible Readings



- SUNDAY:** "Healing" Psalm 118:1-14
MONDAY: "A Blank Canvas" Galatians 5:22-26
TUESDAY: "God's Surprises" Luke 1:26-38
WEDNESDAY: "Overcoming Darkness" John 1:1-14
THURSDAY: "Surefooted" " Psalm 1:1-6
FRIDAY: "Trusting In The Lord" Luke 1:46-55
SATURDAY: "The Longest Journey" Psalm 86:1-13

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path. Psalm 143:10 (NRSV)

Please continue to pray for our sick and shut-ins. Pray for Jay Torrance, Dorothy Williams, Mary Ellen Shenkle, Brenda Torrance, George Briggs, Cheryl Harriet, Jean Beyer, Lora Schmitt, Shirley Hahn, Lynne Smith, Sarah Harriett, Vince Wisbar and Eloise Berglund.

**PER
CAPITA**

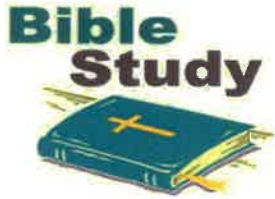
So far **48%** of our membership has paid their **Per Capita**. The apportionment due for each member is **\$34.00**. If you have not paid your Per Capita, there is still time. The due date has been extended to December 31st. We hope that you prayerfully consider paying your apportionment. The more members that contribute, the less money we have to take from our **General Fund**. Thank you.



The **Corporation Meeting** to nominate/elect officers for the **Class of 2022** is rescheduled to take place following regular worship on **December 15, 2019**.



The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be on Tuesday, December 24th at 7:30 PM. Be here by 7:15 PM to hear Grace Shearer perform her beautiful medley of Holy Christmas music.



There will be no Bible Study on either Christmas or New Year's Days.



If you have favorite hymns that you would like Grace Shearer to play at a church service, write the hymns on the form provided on the hall table and place in the office. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE:

The South Hills Community Band had to change the date of their Christmas Concert. The new date is Monday, December 23rd at 7:00 PM. Come and relax and enjoy the sounds of Christmas. Hope to see you there!



The holidays are fast approaching and we are now collecting non-perishable items for the food pantry hosted here at Baldwin UP Church by SHIM. Lists of items needed are on the hall table. Thank you for your generosity.



The deadline for ordering poinsettias is today. For your convenience, an order form is enclosed with the bulletin. If you are interested in purchasing a **poinsettia** or making a donation, please complete the order form and place on the offering plate or return to the office. **Thank you.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY ARTICLES FOR THE JAN/FEB/MARCH NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SUBMIT TO MARGIE BY DECEMBER 23RD. YOU CAN EMAIL MARGIE YOUR ARTICLE AT MARGIEBUPC@VERIZON.NET. THANK YOU.