

The image features three lit purple candles of varying heights, arranged in a row. They are set against a background of a winter wreath containing green pine branches, red berries, and a pinecone. The background has a warm, orange-gold gradient. The word "Peace" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the middle of the candles.

# Peace

*My peace I give you.*

—JOHN 14:27

**THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP**  
**Fourth Lord's Day in Advent (C)**

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

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

11.00 A.M.

December 23, 2018

**WE GATHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**  
*(Please be seated in silence)*

**First Organ Prelude**

*"Sheep May Safely Graze"*

**Bach**

**Announcements**

**Second Organ Prelude**

*"O Come O Come Emmanuel"*

**Call to Worship**

*(O Antiphons)*

**Antiphonal**

**Leader:** O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

**People:** *Come, Lord Jesus.*

**Leader:** O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel, you

appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Key of David, Scepter over the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come to set free the prisoners who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, Sun of justice: Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Ruler of the nations, Monarch for whom the people long, you are the Cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Immanuel, our Sovereign and Lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

\*Hymn

INSERT

*“Savior of the Nations, Come*

**\*Advent Candle Lighting**

Reader: And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the LORD, and my soul rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

*(Magnificat of Mary, Luke 1:46-55)*

Minister: 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 the following verse of “O Come, O Come, *Emmanuel*”

*O come thou Root of Je –se,  
free thine own from Sa-tan’s tyr-ra-ny  
From depths of hell thy peo –ples save  
And give them vic-tory o’er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Em-man-u-el shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.*

**\*Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you.

***P: And also with you***

L: Let us pray.

Leader: Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in

the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

## **HIS LIGHT DISPELS OUR DARKNESS**

### **\*Call to Confession**

**Leader**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Let us therefore ask the Lord to dispel our darkness with his light.

### **\*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**

**Minister**

Rejoice that for the sake of Jesus Christ, the wondrous power and love of God is poured out for you and for the world.

*Thanks be to God!*

### **\*Gloria Patri**

**#546**

**\*The Peace**

**The Offertory**

**Zaphow**

*"Hosanna To The Living Lord"*

**\*Organ Response**

**#552**

**\*The Prayer of Dedication**

**\*The Doxology**

**#544**

**\*Hymn**

**#148**

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

**HIS LIGHT GRANTS US VISION**

**Prayer for 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. 865**

*Micah 5:2-5a*

**Second Reading**

**Pew Bible pg. 224**

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

**Gospel Reading**

**Pew Bible pg. 57**

*Luke 1:39-45*

**Sermon**

**Rev. Walkup**

*"God's Favor"*

**Affirmation of Faith**

**Apostles' Creed**

*Hymnal pg. 12; using "Holy Spirit"*

**Prayer of the People**

**WE BEAR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO OTHERS**

**\*Hymn**

**#171**

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

**\*Charge & Blessing**

**Minister**

**\*Response**

**# 78**

*"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"  
(Verses 1&2)*

**\*Postlude**

**Handel**

*"March Of The Three Kings"*

***\*Please Stand if Able***

\*\*\*\*\*



**WORSHIP TEAM TODAY: Sean Frey, Colleen Frey, Craig Frey**

**WORSHIP TEAM NEXT WEEK: Jean Lindberg, Diane McGreevy,  
VinceWisbar**

\*\*\*\*\*

***Bible Readings***



**SUNDAY:** "Looking To God" Deuteronomy 4:27-31

**MONDAY:** "God Is With Me" Luke 1:26-35

**TUESDAY:** "Christmas Perfection" Luke 2:1-7

**WEDNESDAY:** "The Goldfish Bowl" Matthew 7:1-5

**THURSDAY:** "A Mother's Love" Psalm 20:1-9

**FRIDAY:** "Heavenly Father" Ephesians 3:14-21

**SATURDAY:** "Forgiving Family" Colossians 3:12-17

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** *"Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:37 (CEB)*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Please continue to pray for our sick and shut-ins. Also pray for Jay Torrance, Dorothy Williams, Norman Coliane, Bob Knight, Charlotte Maegle, Tom Shearer, Mary Ellen Shenkle, Sherri Rodgers, Eloise Berglund, Dave Martin, Brenda Torrance and Rose Marie Neill.**



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

**We are collecting non-perishable food items for SHIM's Food Pantry during the holidays which is held at Baldwin UP Church and also for Baldwin-Whitehall Food 4 Kids Program. A list of items needed is on the hall table. Thank you for your generosity in feeding the hungry.**



**There is no Bible Study on Wednesday December , 26, 208.**



The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be **Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.** Please note that **Grace Shearer** will perform her medley of Christmas music starting at **7:15 PM.**



The **annual Congregational Meeting** for the **ordination/installation of officers** will be **Sunday January 20, 2019.** All end of the year reports are due in the office by **January 10, 2019.** You can email the report to **[margiebupc@verizon.net](mailto:margiebupc@verizon.net)**.



The office will be closed on **December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.**

**Margie, the Secretary** will be out of the office on **December 27 and December 28.** If you need to talk to someone, leave a message and someone will call you back. Thank you.



***MAY EVERYONE HAVE A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!***