

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2017

10:30 a.m.

### GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Welcome & Words about The Life and Work of the Church

\* A Time of Greeting

Steeple Bell

Choral Introit

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Love**          Connie & Laurie Bell

Jesus has come-

**and will come again, as God's love for us.**

We bear witness to the light of Christ, and the love of Christ, with all the faithful in every time and place.

With the prophet Isaiah,

We await the promised coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we see that the kingdom of God has come near, and we prepare our hearts for his coming.

With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we magnify the Lord, and rejoice in God's salvation.

With the writers of the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, we tell the good news of how God so loved the world that God sent Jesus, God’s gift of love, born to be our Savior.

**Until that day, with God’s love in our hearts, we seek to love the world that God so loves, in words of care and acts of compassion.**

*(the 4<sup>th</sup> candle of love is lighted)*

The light shines in the darkness -

**And the darkness shall not overcome it!**

**\*Hymn #107 “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”**

Call to Confession

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, have mercy upon us. For we are quick to think of Christmas as a story long ago, instead of the very gift of our salvation now. We forget how we need a Savior, and consume ourselves with busyness. We forget those in need in your world, and want to make our Christmas perfect. Forgive us for forgetting what it all means, and who it is that came and why. Renew in us the gratitude for a Savior, that we may join in your work of mercy, redemption and joy. Grateful for the advent of Jesus, and the forgiveness he brings, we pray...**

(silent prayers)

Assurance of Pardon

**\*Response Hymn #121 (v. 3)**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!**

**So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.**

**No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,**

**Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in .**

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Anthem                                    “Infant Holy”                                    arr. Johnie Dean

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing; Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed; the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow; Christ the Babe was born for you. Christ the Babe was born for you.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Holy God, shine the light of your presence upon us as we listen for a word from you. May hearing your word not only assure us of your love for us, but renew in us our calling to share your love with all. In the way of Jesus, Amen.**

First Scripture Lesson                    Psalm 96:1-5,11-13                    Page: OT 550

A Scripture Conversation

Second Scripture Lesson                    Luke 2:1-5                    Page: NT 58

Sermon                                    “*No Baby*”

**\*Affirmation of Faith** The Coming of God

Ann Weems

ALL: Our God is the One who comes to us

Women: In a burning bush

Men: In an angel's song

Choir: In a newborn child.

ALL: Our God is the One who cannot be found

Men: Locked in the church,

Women: Not even in the sanctuary.

ALL: Our God will be where our God will be

Women: with no constraints

Men: no predictability.

ALL: Our God lives where our God lives,

Choir: and destruction has no power

and even death cannot stop the living.

ALL: Our God will be born where God will be born, but

there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.

Men: When God is ready

Women: God will come

Choir: even to a godforsaken place like a stable in Bethlehem.

ALL: Watch...

Men: For you know not when God comes.

ALL: Watch

Women: that you might be found

Men: whenever

Choir: wherever

ALL: God comes.

**\*Hymn #123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

**\*Response (#93 v.3)**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy One, you offered your gift of saving love whether or not we were ready or receptive. Receive now what we offer – signs of our gratitude and commitment to make room in our lives for Jesus’s way, truth and life. Lead us and use us, we pray, to continue your saving and healing work in the world. Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

**\*Hymn # 136** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

**\*Charge and Benediction**

Choral Benediction

Steeple Bell

Organ Postlude

*You may recycle your bulletins in the basket at the back of the Meeting House.*

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**Thank you for serving today:**

Worship Leader: Minerva Lermond

Ushers: Scott & Amy Selheimer

Nursery: Andrew Lundgren & Bev Stoudt

Sunday School: Heather Raezer

Fellowship Hour: Carol Mayhew

Counters: Jane Fouracre & Jo Viola

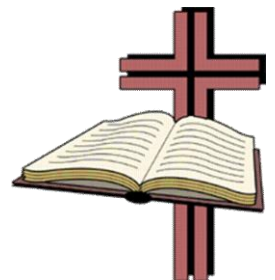
Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

*Frances Massey Appleby*

*1930-1973*

*Leighton C. Dunlap Jr.*

*1916-1993*



## **DECEMBER SOCK DRIVE**

Please consider donating socks during the month of December. We need socks for both men and women. White sport socks are the best but we will accept anything you would like to donate. Gently worn socks are also acceptable. Each Sunday the socks will be delivered to Friendship House and they will distribute them to the individuals who come to the Sunday breakfasts and also on Code Purple days and night. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## **HELP KEEP SEAFARERS WARM**

The Seamen Center of Wilmington is always in need of men's warm winter clothing (**coats, sweatshirts, pants, gloves and hats.**) Donations can be left in the second floor craft room of the CE Building. Questions, call Ellie Gerhart at 328-0908.

## **REMINDER**

Church office will be closed Monday, 12/25 and Tuesday, 12/26

The Beautiful Christmas Display of Flowers  
 In the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God



AND



Patricia & David Taylor	In Memory of Loved Ones
Emma Louise Thornton	In Memory of Loved Ones
Rick & Chris Fagles & Family	In Memory of George & Peg Twyford, Jean Fagles, Stevie Fagles & Al Richmond
Earl & Janet Reed	In Memory of our Parents
Nanette Nichol	In Memory of Loved Ones
Conchita Showell	In Memory of Showells & Dales
Jim & Beverly Stoudt	In Memory of Harvey Fisher
Carlo & Jo Viola	In Memory of Loved Ones and to Honor our Grandchildren
Kris Krawczyk	In Honor of the wonderful members of NCPC and our Interim Pastor Jenny Warren
Lyn & Rachel Briggs	In Memory of Robert L. Briggs
Carol & Gene Mayhew	In Honor of Stacey, JW, and Grandchildren Logan, Hart, Luke & Hunter.
Susan & Jim Flook	In Memory of our Parents and Grandparents
Jenny Warren	In Honor of the committed, capable & creative church staff.
	In Honor of You – this congregation as you prepare the way for your pastoral search
Monty & Ellie Gerhart	In Memory of Loved Ones
Dean & Lynn MacEwen	In Honor of Parents
Joan Smith	In Memory of Elizabeth Reynolds
Gail & C.J. Seitz	In Memory of Our Parents
Rob & Juliann Barry	In Memory of Wanda Barry & Victoria Barry
Bob & Joan Appleby	In Memory of Loved Ones
Ron & Susan Studd	In Memory of Earl & Catherine Chisholm
Dan & Shirley Knox	In Honor of Our Family



## **Prayer List:**

To place a name on the confidential Prayer Chain, contact Susan Flook, 302-328-7346 [suzieflook@hotmail.com](mailto:suzieflook@hotmail.com) or Fran Gingher, silverfran@aol.com

## ***Continuing Care Homes:***

### ***Jean Swanson***

Sunrise - Apt. 238  
1555 W Horizon Ridge Pkwy  
Henderson, NV 89012  
(302) 824-8030 (cell)

### ***Barbara Beaumont***

The Watermark at Logan Sq  
Rehabilitation Center  
2 Franklin Town Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 575-9697

### ***Dot Campbell***

The Summit  
5850 Limestone Rd.  
Hockessin, DE 19707  
(302) 635-2059

### ***William Wilson***

Brandywine Nursing Ctr.  
505 Greenbank Road, Rm C6B  
Wilmington, DE 19808

### ***Vic Clark***

Delaware Veterans Home  
100 Veterans Blvd,  
Rm 1260-2  
Milford, DE 19963  
(302) 424-8565

### ***Sydney Wilson***

255 Possom Park Road  
Apt. 2205  
Newark, DE 19711  
(302) 456-1606

### ***Anita Johnson***

726 Loveville Road  
Healthcare Ctr Rm 2026A  
Hockessin, DE 19707

## ***At Home:***

### ***Esther Lindell***

1 Shaw Alley  
New Castle, DE 19720  
(302) 324-8889

### ***Barbara Quillen***

Cokesbury HealthCare  
726 Loveville Road  
Hockessin, DE 19707

### ***Mary Pratt***

113 E. Main St., Unit 311  
Newark, DE 19711  
(302) 328-7273

### ***Jason Campbell***

522 Brighton Road  
Wilmington, DE 19809

## *This Week*

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12/24</b>		<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>10:30am</b> <b>Worship &amp; Sunday School</b> <b>11:40am</b> <b>Fellowship Hour-All Welcome</b> <b>5:30pm</b> <b>Family Service</b> <b>7:30pm</b> <b>Traditional Worship</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/25</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/26</b>		<b>Office Closed</b> <b>Meals on Wheels</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/27</b>		<b>Meals on Wheels</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12/28</b>		<b>Meals on Wheels</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12/29</b>		<b>Meals on Wheels</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12/30</b>	<b>8-9am</b>	<b>Tai Chi</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12/31</b>		<b>New Year's Eve</b> <b>10:30am</b> <b>Worship &amp; Sunday School</b> <b>11:30am</b> <b>Fellowship Hour – All Welcome</b>