



*First Presbyterian Church of Murrysville
3202 North Hills Road
Murrysville, PA 15668
724-327-0728*

*Our mission is to worship and honor God,
and to bring people to Christ. It is our joy to be stewards
of the Good News of the love of God in Jesus Christ.*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024
11:00 a.m.*

11:00 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 22, 2024

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE OF CAROLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Pottmeyer Family

FOURTH SUNDAY: PRAISE the Light

(refer to Music Insert for Congregational Part)

Musical Introduction (*sung by Choir*)

End our darkness, end our night, Jesus, the light of the world.

Bring to earth God's heavenly light, Jesus, the light of the world.

Responsive Litany:

Leader: Advent is a time to praise.

People: Praise the Lord and rejoice in his goodness.

Leader: Advent is a time to remember God's faithfulness.

People: Praise the Lord and rejoice in his goodness.

Leader: Advent is a time to remember God's blessings.

People: Praise the Lord and rejoice in his goodness.

Leader: Advent is a time to remember God's promises.

People: Praise the Lord and rejoice in his goodness.

Leader: Advent is a time to celebrate the end of darkness.

People: Praise our Lord Jesus, the Light of the World.

Candle Lighting

Short musical intro by **Choir**: "*Jesus, the light of the world...*"

ALL Sing the Congregational part TWICE (INSERT)

Conclusion (*sung by Choir*):

O Jesus, the light of the world, light of the world.

Concluding Prayer

*HYMN #184

"What Child is This"

(Decoration of the Christmas Tree: Members of the congregation are invited to come forward and hang their ornaments on the tree during the singing of the hymn)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

We confess, Gracious God, that we have not always turned to you for guidance. At times, we have allowed the world's time to dominate your time. Forgive us for our sins of hurriedness and impatience. Forgive us when we have slumbered instead of remaining alert, waiting and watching for you. Forgive us for allowing the world's fears to become our fears. Shine upon us this Advent season so that we may be restored unto you. Guide us into your time. As we call upon your name, hear our prayers and give us life.

***PRAYERS OF PERSONAL CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

***GLORIA PATRI**

HYMN #734

ANTHEM

"Advent Hymn"

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9: 1-7

O.T. Page 638

Luke 2:22-32

N.T. Page 59

SERMON

"The Answer to Our Prayers"

Rev. Edward Gray

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN

OFFERING/INSTRUMENTAL OFFERTORY

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

***DOXOLOGY**

HYMN #34

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

(see Prayer List)

*PASSING THE PEACE

Say "Peace be with you"

*HYMN #180

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*BENEDICTION & CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord;
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.**

Naida Hearn (c) 1974, 1978 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) All rights reserved. CCLI License No. 1860205

*INSTRUMENTAL POSTLUDE

* * * * *

Rev. Edward Gray, Pastor

Ruth Poscich, Director of Music

This morning we are blessed with the following participants and volunteers:

8:30 a.m. Worship Leader: Abby Ramaley

11:00 a.m. Worship Leader: Karen Gray

11:00 a.m. Musicians: The Chancel Choir; Michael Bellavia, guitar

Nancy Podey, violin; Sandy Fennell, viola



December 22, 2024 through December 29, 2024

Today Fourth Sunday in Advent
8:30 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary

Monday 3:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday *Christmas Eve*
7:00 p.m. Candle Light Service – Sanctuary

Wednesday *Christmas Day*

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Worship Service – Laird Hall
11:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary

****Meals on Wheels every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday in Laird Hall**

****Friends' Kitchen is the first Wednesday of each month at Laird Hall**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

DEACONS' PRAYER LIST

Lift-up in prayer the residents and families who have suffered through Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton especially those in Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia.

Christmas Eve Worship Service, We will celebrate the wonderful news of our Savior's birth with carols, candlelight, choir, and the proclamation of the Word made flesh. An instrumental prelude of carols will be offered by Nick Nutter at 6:45 pm, so you will want to arrive early for the 7:00 pm service. Come and honor our Lord and Savior with a heart of worship.

Announcements

Thank you to the Fun and Fellowship Committee and the Deacons for the great Christmas Dinner. A special thank you to Patti and John Manno for all of the beautiful decorations, food, and food preparations they donated for the Christmas Dinner. A great time was had by all.

Thank you to the MPP Committee, Teachers, Students and Parents for making the MPP Family Christmas Worship Service and reception so successful for the students and their families, the MPP staff, and the congregation.

We are accepting the Special Christmas Offering for the **MHY Family Services** through December 24. You may use the "Special Offering, Christmas Mission Offering" envelope in your box or in the pew. To ensure your donation is applied to the Mars Home, please write "MHY" in the memo line on the check.

We are continuing the Silent Auction for First Presby Missions. We will auction the five bowls handcrafted by Carl Staab from the Silver Maple tree that was in the church yard. The bowls have a food-safe finish. You may record your bid in the Narthex on the appropriate sheet for the bowl you want. The Auction will close on Christmas Day. The auction winners will be notified the week of December 29.

We are in the last few days of our **2024 Laundry Detergent drive for Westmoreland County Food Bank**. We currently have 89 bottles collected. Thank you to everyone who has donated detergent. We are still seeking an additional 11 bottles so that we can meet our 2024 commitment.

2025 Giving Envelopes and Giving Number Confirmation Letters are available in the Narthex. Please collect yours to help us defray postage cost. Any questions, please refer to a member of the Finance Committee. Thank you.

The office will be closed this week until Friday, December 27.
If you have an emergency, please contact Rev. Gray directly.



Next week, December 29, Sunday School will not be meeting. We will resume our regularly scheduled Sunday school on January 5, 2025.

****UPCOMING EVENTS****

DEC 23	CHOIR REHEARSAL
DEC 24	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE
JAN 7	DEACONS MEETING
JAN 8	FRIENDS' KITCHEN
JAN 15	LUNCH BUNCH
JAN 20	SESSION MEETING
JAN 26	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JAN 29	WARM HUGS



Christmas Eve

- SERVICE -

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024
7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE ORDER OF WORSHIP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024

7:00 P.M.

PRELUDE

CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS

Nick Nutter

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

The Krudwig Family

Musical Introduction (*sung by Choir*)

End our darkness, end our night, Jesus, the light of the world.

Bring to earth God's heavenly light, Jesus, the light of the world.

Responsive Litany:

Leader: Christmas is a time to celebrate.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We celebrate the joy that is in Christ Jesus.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim the victory that is stronger than any defeat.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim the peace that is stronger than any conflict.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim the freedom that is stronger than any bondage.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Candle Lighting

Short musical intro by *Choir*: "*Jesus, the light of the world...*"

Congregation Sings with Choir:

We'll - - walk in the light, beautiful light,

Come, where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright,

O, - - shine all around us by day and by night,

Jesus, the Light of the World. (repeat)

Conclusion (*sung by Choir*):

O Jesus, the light of the world, light of the world.

Concluding Prayer

CAROL SING ALONG (SEE SONG SHEET)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM "Our Messiah's Birth" Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM "Rejoice! Christ is Born!" Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-20

SERMON "Surprise!" Rev. Edward Gray

OFFERING / OFFERTORY Nick Nutter
"Sing We Now of Christmas/God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND 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

*CAROL "Silent Night"

-Please stand for the lighting of the candles-

(During the lighting of the candles, please tip the unlit candle into the flame to receive the light and then pass it on. Please extinguish your candle immediately following the Benediction. After the service, please deposit your candle in the baskets at the exit doors.)

ALL SINGING:

**Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

(Carefully raise your candle high and sing the last verse:)

**Silent night! holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our king;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

***BENEDICTION**

-Please extinguish your candle after the Benediction-

***CLOSING CAROL (SEE SONG SHEET)**

"Joy to the World"

*** POSTLUDE**

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MURRYSVILLE

Rev. Edward Gray, Pastor

Ruth Poscich, Director of Music

*Tonight we welcome the following participants and volunteers
in our worship service:*

The Krudwig Family – Wreath Lighting

Bob Brooks, Reader

Nick Nutter, saxophone

The Chancel Choir

Michael Bellavia, Guitar

Eddie Gray, Audio/Video Technician

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SING

PAGE ONE

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King!”

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

CHORUS:

Go, tell it on the mountain,

Over the hills and everywhere,

Go, tell it on the mountain

That Jesus Christ is born!

VERSE: While shepherds kept their watching

O'er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens

There shone a holy light.

(repeat chorus)

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,

Born is the King of Israel.

TURN OVER FOR PAGE TWO

PAGE TWO

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in
excelsis Deo!

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join
the triumph of the skies; with
th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ
is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

(end of carol sing)

FINAL CAROL AT THE END

OF THE SERVICE:

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is
come;

Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him
room,

And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and
nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior
reigns;

Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy...

No more let sins and sorrows
grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings
flow
Far as the curse is found...

He rules the world with truth and
grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love...