

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where People and Community Matter"
A Matthew 25 Congregation



Sunday, December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Eleven o' clock

Prelude

"So My Sheep May Safely Graze"

Bach

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Introit

*Call to Worship

Leader: A tree stump left to rot puts forth new shoots.

People: Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

Leader: A wolf sinks toward sheep and joins their fold.

People: Could it be that heaven is near at hand? A child plays while serpents slumber.

People: Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

Leader: A prophet cries out from the wild places.

People: Prepare the way! For heaven is near at hand. Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

God of the barren places, whose Spirit rouses stagnant hearts to life, come baptize us in fire that clears away the debris of despair and apathy. Set our spirits ablaze with impossible dreams of oppressors giving up their power for peace and children at play where war once reigned, that, in dreaming, we might come to believe a better world is possible and begin to ready the way for your incoming kingdom. Amen.

*Hymn

"Prepare the Way"

#13

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Misejka Family

One: Clear a path! **People: Make a way!**

One: For the Lord is coming! **People:** The Prince of Peace!

One: The Servant whose gift is Shalom!

People: How we need His peace within ourselves

and throughout our world.

One: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not

walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Dedication of Tithes and Gifts to the Lord

Offertory "Coventry Carol" English Carol

*Doxology "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

#592

#13

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn "Comfort, Comfort, You My People"

*Blessing

*Choral Response

*Sending

Leader: Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

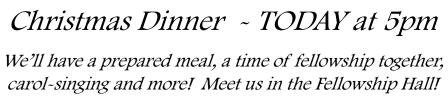
People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "The Heavens are Telling" Beethoven

*Please stand if you are able to do so comfortably.

5.

First UP Church of Tarentum



carol-singing and more! Meet us in the Fellowship Hall!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS | DECEMBER 7TH AT 5PM

A Called Congregational Meeting to elect a Deacon for the Class of 2028 and a Nominating Committee Member for the Class of 2027 will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 7th, 2025 at 5pm. Persons proposed to serve are:

> Nominating Committee, Class of 2027 | Board of Deacons, Class of 2028 **Roxanne Schaaf Betty Scimeca**

Chancel Flowers

The chancel flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my sister, Billie Cunningham, with love from Doris Cunningham.

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

913 Lock Street, P. O. Box 2, Tarentum, PA 15084 724-224-2550 * OFFICE@FUPCT.ORG * WWW.FUPCT.ORG

Pastor: Rev. Philip A. Beck

Administrative Assistant: Jessica Jones, office@fupct.org Choir Director: Abby George, ahill880@icloud.com Organist: Denise Olson, dlo@zoominterent.net

Parish Associate: Pastor Bob Henry, henry2@consolidated.net Pastoral Advisor: Rev. Art Seaman, artseaman@windstream.net

People: Why do we light two candles?

One: The first candle is the Hope candle. The second candle is the Peace

candle. This candle reminds us of the peace of Jesus Christ that

only Jesus could bring to the world.

One: We light the second candle of Advent, the Peace candle.

(The two candles are lit at this time)

One: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. In this season we prepare and wait for the coming of our Lord. We receive peace from His coming just as the Israelites had so long ago. We find peace in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed." God continues to comfort His people.

Let us prepare as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

One: Let us pray.

People: Gracious Lord, let all who long for peace take heart in this light.

By its light let us recognize the things that make for peace and reject the things that service revenge. By its light let us walk with each other, in all of our diversity and difference, as we work together to prepare a path for the coming of the Lord. Amen.

Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" v. 2

O come, though Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh: to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(Unison)

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent in our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. Amen.

(Please spend some time in silent confession.)

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri "Glory Be To The Father"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*The Peace

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Prayers of the People

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.

Anthem "Gabriel's Voice" Higginson

Children's Sermon Rev. Philip A. Beck

*Hymn "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" #10

Scriptures

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 11:1-10 3:1-4 p. 784
New Testament Lesson Romans 15:4-13 p. 199
Gospel Lesson Matthew 3:1-12 p. 3

Sermon "Brood of Vipers" Rev. Philip A. Beck

*Apostles Creed (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; 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.

Announcements

#579