



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where People and Community Matter"

A Matthew 25 Congregation



Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

9:30pm



Prelude *"The Birthday of a King"* **Whitworth**

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Introit *"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* **Wesley**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Sing a new song to God, all the earth!

People: **The oceans roar, the forests sing for joy.**

Leader: For God has shattered the yoke
and tossed the boots of the oppressor into the fire.

People: **Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among all people of goodwill!**

Leader: Do not be afraid, for good news thrills creation:

People: **Today our liberator has been born! Amen.**

***Prayer of the Day**

Living God, on this holy night we gather—to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy; for unto us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

***Hymn** *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* **#31**

Lighting of the Advent Candle **The Beck Family**

One: The people who walked in darkness

People: **have seen a great light!**

One: Those who once lived in shadows

People: **now rejoice at what the Lord has done!**

One: For to us a child is born! A Savior is given!

***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

Dedication of Tithes and Gifts to the Lord

Offertory *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"* **Young**

***Doxology** *"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"* **#592**

*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** *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"* **#37**

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

***Candle Lighting**

First United Presbyterian Church of Tarentum

People: He will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!’ He will bring justice for the poor and defend the rights of the helpless. He will nourish the righteous and embody love. He will bring peace for lions and lambs, hawks and doves, people and peoples.

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.”

People: Why do we light all the candles tonight?

One: The four candles on the outside represent the four weeks of Advent. The middle candle is called the Christ Candle. It is white, representing the purity and sinlessness of Christ. We light the Christ Candle tonight in celebration of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World.

We light the Christ Candle. We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming.

(All Candles are lit at this time)

We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. The wolf shall dwell with the lambs, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

One: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom, like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us pray.

People: Gracious God, let all who yearn for new beginnings take heart in this light. When God comes as a child we open ourselves to wonder, to love and to hope. His light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Let the joy of Christmas fill our hearts. This is the light of Emmanuel, the Christ Candle. Amen.

***Hymn** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v.5
*O Come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free, and conquer death’s deep misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age—worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked and ungodly ways. Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.
(Please spend some time in silent confession.)

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Gloria Patri** “Angels from the Realms of Glory” #22
*Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.*

***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.

Anthem “Welcome the Child of Light” Hayes

***Hymn** “On this Day Earth Shall Ring” #46

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Illumination

Scriptures

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 62:6-12	p. 847
New Testament Lesson	Titus 3:4-7	p. 262
Gospel Lesson	Luke 2:1-20	p. 71
Gospel Lesson	John 1:1-14	p. 111

Sermon “Christ is Born, For Us” Rev. Philip A. Beck