

D O N E G A L  
P R E S B Y T E R I A N  
C H U R C H

*founded prior to 1721*



December 22, 2024

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. *Worship in the Sanctuary*



Love



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ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE "Pastoral from the Messiah" *G.F. Handel*  
*"As the prelude begins, please observe a time of quietness in preparation for worship."*

**Gathering in God's Name**

WELCOME

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Jeff & Portia Brian  
Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

We light this new candle as a symbol of the steadfast love we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

\*HYMN "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" #104

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
- 2 Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.
- 3 You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and good-will,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.**

*(Silent Confession)*

In Christ's name we pray...

**Amen.**

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

\*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

#581

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.

**Proclaiming God's Word**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 80

NRSV

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
<sup>2</sup>before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

<sup>6</sup>You make us the scorn of our neighbors;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Would You Bring a Song?"

*Robert Lau*

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

NRSV

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Sing LOVE" Matt Randolph

**Eucharist**

GIVING OF GOD'S TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Von Himmel Hoch" *arr. R. Hebble*

\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION #606

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.

\*HYMN "In the Bleak Midwinter" #144

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
- 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
- 3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there;  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
- 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wiseman, I would do my part;  
yet what I can give him: give my heart.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Therefore, we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices  
with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and  
place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and  
earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

hymnal p. 35

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION from Psalm 103:1-2

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**and forget not all God's benefits.**

**Sending in God's Name**

\*HYMN "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" #146

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;  
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.
- 2 Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;  
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.  
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;  
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

\*BENEDICTION

\*EXTENSION OF PEACE

The peace of our Lord and Savior go with you all.

**And also with you.**

CHORAL RESPONSE "Amen" *Franklin Ritter*

POSTLUDE "Chorale Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo'" J.M. Bach

*\*All those who are able may stand.*

## Reflection for the Christian Life

Where do you see the light of Christ magnified in your person, your life, and the ways of your family and community? Notice in the coming week one time each day when the light of Christ is made present for you by others.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TODAY Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Traditional Service in the Sanctuary, 9:00 a.m.
- **TODAY Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Fellowship Time Cookie Share, between Services in the Fellowship Hall
- **TODAY Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Children's Sunday School, 10:20 a.m.
- **TODAY Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Celtic Sabbath Service in the Fellowship Hall, 11:15 a.m.
- **TODAY Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Longest Night Evensong in the Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.
- **Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Scout Troop 53
- **Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**, Christmas Eve Service in the Fellowship Hall, 5:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**, Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary, 8:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**, Nativity of our Lord, no services
- **Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**, First Sunday of Christmas, One Service – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary, *Mike Wills in the Pulpit*, 10:00 a.m.
- **Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**, Fellowship Time Snacks in the Fellowship Hall provided after service
- **Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**, Children's Sunday School, 10:20 a.m.

Prepare the Way  
ISAIAH 40

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING  
DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 22

THE PERFECT GIFT

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we prepare the way for the leaders of our Church - past, present and future.

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.