

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of December 22, 2013

This Week: Christmas Eve 7:00 PM Candlelight Lessons and Carols
Next Sunday 10:00 AM First Sunday after Christmas
worship

Celebrating Birthdays: Charles Franzke, Elizabeth Laing

The office will only be open for limited hours between Christmas and New Year's Day. Please call ahead before stopping in.

Next Sunday we will welcome back the Rev. Bill Humpheys for a lessons and carols worship service. With many readings, all who are interested are invited to participate. Bill will invite folks to read that morning so please consider being actively part of worship in *this* way.

Nicole will be on vacation from Christmas Day through New Year's Day. Call her cell phone (listed in the directory, which can be found in the Oak Room) with any urgent needs.

As Nicole mentioned in worship two weeks ago, she will be having surgery in January to remove an overinflated air sac from her left lung. She has known about the air sac for sixteen years and was told to go about living as if it weren't there until it presents a problem. Well, it's now grown to fill the upper lobe of her lung so it's time to take it out.

Surgery is scheduled for Monday, January 13, and will require a couple of days of hospitalization to monitor the healing and two weeks total of medical leave. While she is away, Rev. Julie Peterson, pastor at Brookfield Presbyterian Church, will fill in for pastoral needs. Please alert Ellen, who has Rev. Peterson's contact information. The first Sunday of leave (1/19), worship will be led by Rev. Barbara Jordan and Rev. Bill Humpheys will return to our pulpit the following Sunday (1/26). Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Nicole.

The Lord himself
will give you a sign.

Isaiah 7:14

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*4th Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2013*

GATHERING

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel [PH 9]

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Look! The young woman is with child.

He will be called Emmanuel, God with us.

His name will be Jesus, for he comes to save us.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

We confess together as a community of faith because we acknowledge the reality of sin in the church, the world, and our personal lives, and so we ask God for forgiveness and help in amending our lives. And the proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence, assured of a forgiveness already given through Christ. So, in faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another, first together and then in silence.

Holy Spirit abides with you, with those whom you love, and with those whom God alone loves, now and forever more. Amen.

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SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

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 the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Signs are all around us. Be watchful of where you might enter in. And as you are watching, know that the grace of our Lord, the love of God, and the fellowship of the

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing [PH 31]

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We choose what is evil and refuse what is good. We scorn our neighbors and laugh at others’ troubles. Forgive us; deliver us; let your face shine on us, so that we may be ready to meet our Emmanuel, Jesus Christ our Lord. (silence) Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

[PH 579]

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.

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, the mother of our Lord, speak to us now through your Word that by hearing we too may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will.
Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

SECOND LESSON

This is the Word of the Lord.

Matthew 1:18-25

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

A Sign

RESPONDING

*HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came [PH 16]

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “O lowly maiden Mary,”
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother you shall be,
All generations praise continually,
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.”
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleases God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy One, who astonishes us with surprising gifts, we pray for your church and for people of faith in every language and belief, that your wisdom will show us our common life, and that all people may rejoice in what you create.

Giver of the stars and planets, creators of rivers and oceans, and creatures large and small, we pray for wisdom as we live on and with your earth. Evoke in us awe for your goodness in these familiar surroundings: our hills and valleys, forests and deserts, that the powers you have placed here to move through soil and air will remind us always of your bounty and your love.

Power above all powers, we pray for the leaders of governments in every nation, that they may have wisdom to choose what serves the common good.

Lover of all creation, we pray for all those we too easily forget: those of your children who are poor, or homeless, or in prison; those who are sick, or lonely, or frightened; all who hunger for faith and hope. Care for them, that they may be strengthened by joy in your healing.

Holy One, in whose community we thrive, we pray for those with whom we share our daily lives: our families, our friends, and neighbors, those with whom we work and play, those whose names we do not know who provide for us, those for whom this time is dark with sorrow and grief and illness rather than filled with light, that we may all be renewed in courage and nurtured in hope.

Sustainer of your people, we give you thanks for members of the body of Christ in every age and every place who, by their witness, bring us here today. Come to us in Christ, O God, that we who live in this world by faith may see that faith confirmed in the world to come; through the risen One who taught us to pray, saying...

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.**

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

[PH 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

Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.