

**First Presbyterian Church**  
101 South Decatur Street, Strasburg PA 17579  
(717) 687-6030  
www.straspres.org / straspres@straspres.org

Sunday, December 23, 2018

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:30am

\*\*\*\*\*

PRELUDE

*"Glory to God in the Highest"* – Pergolesi/Pollock  
Piano/Organ Duet---Donna Burkholder, piano

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: Wired Word Class

Leader: This last Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of Your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

People: **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\* HYMN

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

No. 9

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

**O Holy God of Promise, we thank You and praise You for this season of waiting in joyous expectation for You! We confess that we find it difficult to believe in anything, let alone an ancient story about a virgin, and a guiding star being a sign from You. You have asked us to believe in the one simple truth in Your Word and that has not been easy. Forgive us when we put You to the test, and doubt the ways You work. Help us to open the heart of our belief, so we can accept that You sent yourself for us, to set us free. We pray together in faith and in the name of our blessed Emmanuel. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

*[Please share Christ's peace with one another with handshakes, hugs, kisses—however you feel led.]* \*HYMN  
*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Beth Feiler

*(For those who wish, children grades K-4 can leave for children's church at this time.)*

ANTHEM

*"Advent Suite"* – Maddux  
Bruce Gerlach, Soloist

Chancel Choir

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

*Isaiah 7:11-17 (OT p636)*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

*Titus 2:11-14 (NT p215)*

SERMON

*"A Simple Story"*

Rev. Robert Bronkema

\*HYMN

*"What Child Is This"*

No. 53

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"* – Traditional/Pollock

Piano/Organ Duet

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

\*HYMN

*"Joy to the World!"*

No. 40

\*BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*"Let There Be Peace on Earth"*

\*POSTLUDE

*"Joy to the World"* – arr. Hustad

\*\*\*\*\*

**Next Week -- One Blended Service at 10:00**

1 Samuel 2:18-20

Luke 2:41-52

*"When it Becomes Real"*

11:00am

Greeting & Announcements

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Parlor Class

Leader: This last Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of Your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

**People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*Praise & Worship

*Open Up the Heavens*

*Joyful (The One Who Saves)*

*Adore*

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message: Beth Feiler

*(For those who wish, children grades K-4 can leave for children's church at this time.)*

Scripture Reading

*Isaiah 7:11-17; Titus 2:11-14*

Sermon

*"A Simple Story"*

\*Offering/Closing Song

*The Lion and the Lamb*

\*Benediction

SERMON NOTES:

---

---

---