

Celebrating a

WREATH

THIS WEEK

December 17

December 18

December 22

Peyton Thomas

Sarah Slabchuck

Doug Sanford

IN NEED  
OF PRAYER

Shane McWayne, Gerda Barbour, JoAnne Stirling, Ralph Green, and for the sick and those who need God’s comfort.

**Prayer Help Available.** Please call the church office, 782-1750 if you have a prayer request. Your confidential prayer request will be put on the First Pres. Prayer Chain. Only those requesting public prayers are included for prayers in our church bulletin.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all participants in the Cantata/Pageant!

MY TAKE AWAY

THOUGHTS AND NOTES

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 16, 2018

10:00 a.m.

This service is being broadcast over radio station WATN 1240

\* Indicates that those who are able may stand.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Three Advent Carols

Wake, Awake, a Voice Is Calling; Veni Emmanuel; People, Look East, the Time Is Near

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist

Grimoaldo Macchia

GREETING

Peace be with you.

And also with you

PRELUDE

Gabriel’s Oboe

Ennio Morricone

Composed to symbolize Father Gabriel’s message of Salvation through Christ to an isolated tribe in South America, this song alludes to the Archangel Gabriel, the messenger from God in both the Old and New Testaments. It is Gabriel who brings the news to the Virgin Mary that she will bear a son who will be the Savior, the long-awaited Messiah. (Luke 1:26-38, The Annunciation).

Carl Bingle, organ

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - Candle of Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Isaiah 12:2-6)

Leader:

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; the Lord has become my salvation.

People:

With joy you draw water from the wells of your salvation and you Will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on the name of God, Make known the Lord’s deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in All the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your Midst is the Holy One of Israel.

All

Let us worship God!

**\*HYMN #249**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

**INVITATION TO REPENTANT PRAYERS**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Savior of every nation, we remember your promise of joy. You sent women and men to testify to the light that Christ brought us, but we have often found ourselves giving in to the darkness of the world. Renew us that we may embody your gift of love and hope, so we can live lives that proclaim the joyous news of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**WORDS OF COMFORT AND FORGIVENESS**

...in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In Jesus Christ, you are also forgiven.**

**\*RESPONSE - You Are My Hiding Place - Hymn #700**

*You are my hiding place. You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance;  
Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. I will trust in You. Let the weak say,  
I am strong in the strength of the Lord!*

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

**OFFERTORY SOLO**

*Ave Maria*

Franz Schubert (1825)

Based on the Angel Gabriel’s greeting to Mary in Luke, Chapter 1:

“Hail, Mary; the Lord is with Thee!”

Clancy Cox, soloist; Carl Bingle, organ

**\*DOXOLOGY ~ HYMNAL #815**

*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.*

**\*ELDERS’ PRAYER AND 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.*

**THE WORD**

**CANTATA/PAGEANT - THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT** by Benjamin Harlan

Pageant directed by Michele Elmer

Chancel Choir; Sara Gleason, Director; Phyllis Elmer, piano; Carl Bingle, organ

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Chancel Choir

*Guiding Star*

Chancel Choir

Hymn #250 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Chancel Choir and Congregation

*Mary’s Lullaby*

Chancel Choir

Hymn #277 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Chancel Choir and Congregation

Hymn #288 *We Three Kings*

Chancel Choir and Congregation

*Fairest Jesu*

Chancel Choir

*We Bring His Light with Joy to the World* , Hymn #270, verses 1 & 4

Chancel Choir and Congregation

**SENDING**

**\*HYMN #258**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

**\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**THE POSTLUDE**

*Choirs of Shepherds and Angels*

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881)

The pink candle in the Advent wreath represents Rejoicing Day (Gaudemus). It commemorates the shepherds’ reaction upon hearing the Angels’ tidings of great joy. This organ piece describes the passage in Luke where these common workmen were the first to hear of the Messiah’s birth, and the voices of Angels in the heavens.

Carl Bingle, organ