

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. 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. 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.

~ Micah 5:2-5

Church Staff

Casey Carbone, Associate Pastor
Sara D. Gleason, Director of Music
Carl A. Bingle, Organist
Jennifer M. Whitenack, Bell Choir Director
Regina Banks, Nursery Coordinator
Jillian Norris, Nursery Staff
Aleesha Gill, Nursery Staff
Mitch Farney, Sexton
David Kandler, Sexton
Sue Beaman, Administrative Asst.
Penny Levos, Business Manager
Donna Dunkle, Special Program Director
Linya Bell, Parish Outreach Coordinator
Gail Parsons, Parish Associate



THIS WEEK

December 23 Veronica Ngum
December 26 Gabriel Saki
December 27 Melissa Van Ruiten
December 28 Blanche Miles
December 28 Ruthann Reed
December 29 Anne Willaman



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 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
Ring, Christmas Bells
A Carol Medley

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist
Ukrainian Carol, arr. Fedak
arr. Robert Hughes

GREETING
Peace be with you.
And also with you.

PRELUDE
Wake, Awake! A Voice Is Calling
Johann Sebastian Bach
Known as the Advent Chorale, the melody will be heard on a reed stop in its lower octave, while Bach's renowned countermelody sweeps above it on high flutes.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - Candle of Love

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ Psalm 80
Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
People: **Stir up your might, and come and save us!**
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
Let us worship God!

*HYMN #286
Once in Royal David's City

INVITATION TO REPENTANT PRAYERS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe in what is easy, in what is comfortable, you asked us to believe in what is true and challenging! Help us to find faith, and allow our hearts to believe the good news once again. May we trust in your steadfast love that sustains and nurtures us. 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!*

LITURGIST WELCOME

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5 (Old Testament, pages 865 in pew Bibles)

HANDBELL ANTHEM

Christmas Bell Rejoicing arr. Michael Ryan
Adult Handbell Choir

CHILDREN’S TIME

(Sunday School will not meet today or next Sunday, but will resume January 6.)
Children will return to their seats as we sing *Jesus Loves Me.*)

SECOND READING

Luke 1:46b-55 (New Testament, page 57 in pew Bibles)

SERMON

“A Song of Hope”
Rev. Casey Carbone

***HYMN #245**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

PASTORAL 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.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

O Little Town of Bethlehem Benjamin Harlan
Chancel Choir; Sara Gleason, director; Phyllis Elmer, piano; 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.*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SENDING

***HYMN #278**

Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

Creator of the Stars of Night: A Trumpet Tune G. Macchia (2017)
The organ bells peal forth this 9th century Plainchant from Salisbury, England.
The Festival of Trumpet from the west organ joins the chancel organ’s Bombarde Trumpet in carrying the ancient song. Its third verse states: “When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.”