

We welcome you to worship with us this morning! Out of consideration for the people around you, please ensure that your mobile devices are set to silent mode.

Regular Print: Leader

Bold: Congregation

**Asterisk: Please stand if able*

“He, the Life of all, our Lord and Savior, did not arrange the manner of his own death lest He should seem to be afraid of some other kind. No. He accepted and bore upon the cross a death inflicted by others, and those other His special enemies, a death which to them was supremely terrible and by no means to be faced; and He did this in order that, by destroying even this death, He might Himself be believed to be the Life, and the power of death be recognized as finally annulled. A marvelous and mighty paradox has thus occurred, for the death which they thought to inflict on Him as dishonor and disgrace has become the glorious monument to death's defeat.”

— St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*

✠ WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD ✠

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Petit Prélude

Joseph Jongen (Belgium, 1873-1953)

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

8:30 a.m. *Selene McGowen, Addylin Mumau, and Eric Mumau*

11:00 a.m. *Chris and Charlotte Thomas*

*Opening Hymn: #93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us for returning empty-handed. You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark! You who sent John to be a voice crying, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all! Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!

*Silent Prayer of Confession/Assurance of Pardon (from Ephesians 2)

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together in Christ. By his surpassing grace we have been saved! Friends, believe the good news of the gospels.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*The Gloria Patri

tune: REGENT SQUARE

Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to God the Son,
Glo - ry be to God the Spi - rit, ev - er three and ev - er one;
one in might and one in glo - ry while e - ter - nal a - ges run.

✠ WE LISTEN AS THE SCRIPTURES ARE PROCLAIMED ✠

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3

Pew Bible p.846

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message for Young Disciples

Pastor Ben

*Hymn of the Day: #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:16-21

Pew Bible p.74-75

Sermon: COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

The Rev. Benjamin Black

✠ WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND GRATITUDE ✠

*Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Offertory Interlude *Day by Day* Rachel Trelstad Porter (United States, b.1955)
(Your prayer requests may be written on the blue prayer cards and placed in the offering plate.)

*Hymn of Thanksgiving: #654 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful *Taizé Community*

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.

The Sacrament of Communion

✠ WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD ✠

*Closing Hymn: O Day of God, Draw Near BAYLOR

R.B.Y. Scott (1899-1987) Hal Hopson (b. 1933)

O day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power;
come with your time - less judge - ment now, to match our pre - sent hour.

2. Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.
3. Bring to our world of strife your sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more and desolation cease.
4. O day of God, draw near as at creation's birth;
let there be light again, and set your judgements on the earth.

*Benediction

Postlude *Gospel Fanfare* Andrew Carter (England, b.1939)



First Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 1, 2024 • 8:30 & 11:00 AM



The First Presbyterian Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania • *founded 1800*

www.meadvillefpc.org • 814-333-2161

The Rev. Benjamin Black • *Senior Pastor*

Mary Zahora • *Administrative Assistant*

Kevin Dill • *Director of Music*

Kris Lubomski • *Financial Secretary*

Vickie Fischer • *Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Elijah Boyd • *Custodian*

Chris Wade • *Evening Custodian*