



Service for the Lord's Day

December 23, 2018 11:00 a.m.

4th Sunday of Advent



Photo "Forest Path Winter Crossroads" © keywest3 from pixabay.com

New to Hunter? Here's some information to help you feel at home. Where you see asterisks in the bulletin, you're invited to stand. When we pass the peace, you're invited to greet those around you with a joyful sign of Christ's peace. All children are welcome to come forward for the sharing with young disciples. When we share our joys and concerns, feel free to join in. We offer a nursery for newborns through 3-year-olds. Thank you for visiting Hunter. We're glad you're here! Before you leave, please sign our guestbook in the narthex.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

arr. Keith Chapman

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, **and shall name him Immanuel (God is with us). Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

*Hymn 121

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

(moment for silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

*Hymn 595

"Holy, Holy, Holy" (sing twice)

ARGENTINE SANTO

*Passing of the Peace

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

And also with you.

Litany for Advent O Antiphons

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Special Music

"Joy to the World"

arr. by James Curnow
Matthew Goodrich

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Old Testament

Micah 5:2-5a

(O.T., p. 865)

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 80

Refrain

Advent: Lord, come soon; come to
Ordinary Time: God of love, come and
 save us. Lord, come soon.
 help us. Lord, hear our prayer.

Reading from the Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

(N.T., p. 57)

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Adam Telechbush

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Special Music

"I Saw Three Ships"

Matthew Bernard

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Presenting Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

"Joy to the World"

Daniel Ackerman

*Hymn 605

"Praise to God the Father"

DA N'ASE

*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication

*Hymn 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

*Charge & Benediction

*Hymn 564

"Amen"

AMEN

Postlude

"Angels, From the Realms of Glory" with "O Holy Night"

arr. Dick Torrans

Depart in Peace

*Please stand as you are able.

Household Prayer: O Shepherd of Israel, from whom comes forth one who shall feed your flock, we gather as those who dwell in the folds of your embrace and care. Your love envelops us like swaddling cloths wrapped around a babe in a manger. Your countenance shines like a star that led the wise men one night. We behold your radiance as we enter your sanctuary and praise your name for the Christ who brings us salvation. Amen.

This Week at Hunter

12/24 Monday	Church Office Closed Christmas Eve Service 6:00p.m.
12/25 Tuesday	Church Office Closed
12/30 Sunday	Early Worship 8:45a.m. Morning Worship 11:00a.m.

Sunday Announcements

A warm welcome to all visitors. We are glad you chose to worship with us today.

Prayer Requests:

Prayers for: The McGuire family, Jackie Smith, Evelyn Evans, Patricia Laughlin, Becky Ginter, Jennifer Wheeling, Bob White, Doris Palmer, Pauline Tabb, Midge Rishel, Ruth Beattie's parents, Ann Johnson (friend of Bob White & Annie Rhoten).

You have seen changes in the sanctuary decorations as we've moved through Advent. On this, its fourth Sunday, the story is nearly complete. In the windows, angels have come to the shepherds to tell them the great news. A lone camel rests in the shade of palm trees, unaware that there is a long journey in his future. Mary and Joseph are awaiting the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Joy Offering. We celebrate the birth of Jesus through the Christmas Joy offering. Half of the offering is used to supplement pensions for former ministers, missionaries, church workers and their families with inadequate retirement income when assistance is needed or to provide grants when medical emergencies arise. The other half of the offering provides scholarships for outstanding students who attend Presbyterian schools founded as mission outreach to provide an excellent education for African American, American Indian or Hispanic students. (Menaul School, Presbyterian Pan American School and Stillman College.) Many will become church leaders and need financial assistance while they discover and prepare for their professional lives. The Christmas Joy Offering gifts help students listening for God's call and church workers who have tried to follow that call faithfully for decades. Our gifts are thanks for past faithfulness and hope for future possibilities. Envelops for this offering are in the pew racks. They can be put in the offering any Sunday morning or at the Christmas Eve service.

Join us on Christmas Eve for a service of lessons and carols at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

The church office will be closed on December 24 and 25 as well as December 31 and January 1 in observance of the holidays and the new year.

There will be no Sunday School, for adults or children, next Sunday, December 30.

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Hunter Presbyterian Church

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J. T. Silence, Interim Pastor

Hyunjin Kwak, Director of Music Ministry; Allen Fletcher, Organist;
Kevin Eddy, Property Manager; Lynn Davis, Administrative Assistant.