

SLATE RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 1, 2024 11:00am

First Day of Advent

PRELUDE

“Joy! Joy! Joy!”

Mansfield

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL

*INTROIT SEE SCREEN

“Emmanuel”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Debbie Hess, reader; David Stewart, lighting the candle

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from “Celtic Daily Prayer”)

Leader: Lord, take this song and fill it with your presence. Let it bring a word of hope to weary care-full hearts.

People: Take this song and fill it, Lord. Fill it with yourself.

Leader: Lord, take our lives and fill them with your praises.

Let us speak words of peace that Jesus brings in us.

People: Take this life and fill it, Lord. Fill it with yourself.

Leader: Lord, take this place and fill it with your blessing. Let it be a haven where the poor in spirit sing.

People: Take this place and fill it, Lord. Fill it with your praise.

***OPENING PRAYER**

(ALL)

God of redeeming grace, you lead us in paths of righteousness and make your ways known through the birth of a child. We praise your goodness and rely on your wisdom. Accept the sounds of rejoicing we raise to you and guide our hearing as we seek your instruction. Grant that we may not only worship you joyfully but also follow you faithfully all the days of our lives. Accept our joyful praises. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #260**

“Worthy, You Are Worthy”

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jesus said, do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial. With confidence in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(ALL)

God of forgiveness and mercy, hear our prayer as we confess our sin. With moments so critical we let time go by. With deliverance so near we linger in the darkness. With Christ as our armor, we yet fear the unknown foe. With the night having passed, we still hesitate to greet the new day. Forgive us for our failings, O God. Lead us forth, that we may meet the moment you graciously give us. Dispel the shadows, so that your will may be clear. Clothed with light and new life in Christ, let us go forth as those awake to your will.

Moment for silent prayer and reflection

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said that anyone who hears what he says and trusts in God has eternal life. The time is coming; indeed, it is already here. All who heed God's voice shall have eternal life. Rest in the assurance of God's grace made known to us in Jesus Christ.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

***THE GLORIA PATRI #812**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE TO PRAYERS #641

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

Boyles

***DOXOLOGY**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

(ALL)

Lord, open our hearts to receive your Word; by your Spirit free us from the power of darkness and show to us the inheritance of the saints of light. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 3: 14-15

Pages 5-6

ANTHEM

“Here Comes the Light”

Graham

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1: 5-17

Page 1587

SERMON

“The Gift of Hope”

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells. Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at

your table in glory. We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE SHARING OF THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER THE LORD'S SUPPER

***CLOSING HYMN #245**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

***POSTLUDE**

“The King Shall Come”

Broughton

*Please stand, if you are able.

The flowers on the organ are given by Mary Gerlach in loving memory of Bill and Henry Gerlach.