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DECEMBER 11, 2022, 10:30 AM  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

*Advent Medley*

arr. Marilyn Ham

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



HYMN OF PRAISE

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Hymn 106

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

CHORAL INTRODUCTION



CALL TO WORSHIP

The Cridge and Florentine Families

Advent is a time to prepare.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.**

† *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

† **CANDLE LIGHTING**

† **REFRAIN** *We Wait in Hope* Please see insert and sing verse 3

**ADVENT PRAYER**

## **TIME OF CONFESSION**

† **CALL TO CONFESSION** Kip Fowler

† **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,  
to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt.  
A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't.  
Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.  
Comparison and critique lead the charge.  
Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.  
Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.  
Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.  
Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,  
and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

† **SILENT CONFESSION**

† **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of Faith, hear this good news: We who have chosen wrong, are given a  
second chance. We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community.  
We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known. This is the good news of the gospel.  
  
No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way,  
God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.

† **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

† **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Gloria Patri* Hymn 581

# THE WORD

A TIME OF WONDER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

“We Can Choose a Better Way”

Rev. Sarah Robbins

†

HYMN

*Through the Ages*

Please see insert

†

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges.  
We believe in a God who opens the door to new life  
and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.  
We believe in a God who believes in us— believes that we can make a  
difference, that we can choose grace over comparison,  
love over hate, peace over war. And so we strive to live our lives in love.  
We strive to listen as Joseph listened,  
and to be the people that God calls us to be.  
It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*Please place your offering in the tray at the back of the sanctuary  
as you exit after worship or consider giving online at [www.glenshamchurch.org](http://www.glenshamchurch.org).*

OFFERTORY

*The Advent of Our God*

arr. Richard Shephard

†

DOXOLOGY

Hymn 606

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

## SHARING THE JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal Page 35

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

† SENDING HYMN *Love Has Come* Hymn 110

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that  
from generation to generation,  
we have been claimed and loved.

**From generation to generation, God has been by our side.**

**From generation to generation, we are not alone.**

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow  
knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,  
saying, "Go be the person you are called to be,  
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."

May it be so. Amen.

† POSTLUDE *Prepare the Way, O Zion* arr. Robert A. Hobby

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Please leave your hymn insert in the pew for next Sunday's service. Thank you.**

### ADVENT PARAMENTS

The Advent paraments employ the vast hues of purple to remind us that the child whose humble birth we await is our Lord and King. Amidst the purple, blue is interjected as a symbol of hope and expectation, pointing us toward heaven. As your eye moves across the chancel, you will notice that the deep purples become increasingly brighter, reminding us of the Advent journey from darkness into light. The cross on the Pastor's stole is an anchor cross, a traditional symbol of our hope in Christ.

**VISITORS**, please **complete a visitor card found** in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary. We are glad to have you worship with us!

† *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

## COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POINSETTIAS

White Christmas Poinsettias will once again decorate our Sanctuary during the Christmas season. Plants will be in a 6” pot at \$7 each. The greenhouse deadline is Sunday, **December 11**. To order, please fill out an envelope in the narthex, include your payment, and place in offering plate or bring to the church office. Be sure to indicate the exact wording you prefer and who is giving the plants.



**PER CAPITA** for 2022 is \$34.79

### GPC BOOK CLUB

**Feb. 1, 2023**

*The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles, 593 pages, (Laura Davidson),  
Hostess – Anne Orr, 412-492-9713

### CHANCEL FLOWERS

We are now accepting orders for chancel flowers to brighten our sanctuary during our Sunday services. The cost to sponsor both arrangements dedicated to a loved one, to the Glory of God, or any dedication so desired each week is \$55. **To order flowers, please contact Jennifer in the church office** by calling 412-486-8400 ext. 110 or emailing [jennifer@glenshawchurch.org](mailto:jennifer@glenshawchurch.org) by 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before your desired Sunday.

## **DONATE TO THE GPC EARLY LEARNING CENTER THROUGH UNITED WAY**

Dear GPC Members,

Every day dozens of parents for trust us with their children and we feel truly honored to have them in our Center. Last year the United Way added the Early Learning Center as an agency to accept donations. If you contribute to the United Way, you can now designate your contribution to the Glenshaw Presbyterian Church Early Learning Center. The code for the ELC is 17905449. Thank you for considering this. All funds received will be used to buy supplies, toys, etc. for the children.

Respectfully,  
Fawn Pignoli  
GPC ELC Director

## **CHILDREN'S CHRIST CANDLES**

Parents and grandparents please have your children look for the Christ candle near the activity bags. They can light their own tea candle and place it with the larger one.



## **CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY SEASON**

### **Saturday December 24th, Christmas Eve**

A traditional candle-lit service will be held at 7:30pm.

### **Sunday December 25th, Christmas Day**

There will be no in-person worship service, but we will share a link to an on-line service for folks to worship at home. We will also be sharing other in-person options for worship on the 25th that are nearby, as we get closer to the date.

### **Sunday January 1st, New Year's Day**

There will be a non-traditional and informal worship service at 10:30am.

### **Sunday January 8th, Epiphany**

We will celebrate the beginning of the season of Epiphany with a traditional communion worship service.

## **THIS WEEK AT GLENSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>December 11, 2022—THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b> 9:30 AM Adult Education in the Parlor 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Fellowship
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>December 12, 2022</b> 5:00 PM Early Learning Center Board Meeting 6:30 PM PNC Meeting
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>December 13, 2022</b> 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Properties Committee Meeting
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>December 14, 2022</b> 10:00 AM Advent Devotional Time
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 18, 2022—FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Fellowship

### **GPC OFFICE HOURS :**

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Welcoming all who seek to know God,  
Glenshaw Presbyterian Church invites  
individuals and families to join in our  
journey of faith as we share the love of  
Jesus Christ with one another, the  
community, and the world.



### **The GPC Session**

Sherry Martin, Clerk of Session

#### **Class of 2023**

Ann Carlson  
Betty Miller  
Bruce Raines  
Deb Vita

#### **Class of 2024**

Alain Richardson  
Brian Helfferich  
April Klein  
Chick Pfeiffer

#### **Class of 2025**

Alan Cridge  
Mark Held  
Sherry Martin  
Donna Walker

### **----- CHURCH STAFF -----**

Rev. Sarah Robbins, *Interim Pastor*

Cell phone: 412-715-3207

Corinne Adkins, *Director of Music & Organist*

Lois Cridge, *Business Manager*

Jennifer Zanke, *Administrative Assistant*

Fawn Pignoli, *Director of the GPC Early Learning Center*

Frank Maksin, *Property Manager*

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