



Advent at
Glenshaw
Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 17, 2023, 10:30 AM
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Marilyn Biery

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTRODUCTION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Judy Stauffer & granddaughter,
Katie Sturges

During Advent our eyes are opened to the wonders of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our faith is nurtured by the promise of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our hope is reawakened to the presence of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our lives are touched by the love of God.

With God all things are possible.

CANDLE LIGHTING



REFRAIN

God Is Near

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

Lis - ten to the an - gels, hear the mes - sage they bring;
tell - ing the news of a com - ing King; fill - ing the
world with_ hope and good cheer. Je - sus, Em -
man - u - el, _____ God is near. _____



ADVENT PRAYER

TIME OF CONFESSION



HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Hymn 88 vv.1-4



CALL TO CONFESSION

Beth Nickel



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

† SILENT CONFESSION

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Gloria Patri Hymn 581

THE WORD

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 1:46b-55

SERMON Accept Rev. Emily Cooper

HYMN *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* Hymn 100

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed Hymnal Page 35

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*Please place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary
as you exit after worship or consider giving online at www.glenshamchurch.org.*

OFFERTORY

Born to Set Thy People Free
Chancel Choir
MaryKay Vallo, soloist

arr. Lloyd Larson

† **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** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* **Hymn 93**

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

† **POSTLUDE** *Fugue on "TRURO"* arr. Edward W. Beals

WORSHIP NOTES

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are dedicated to the glory of God in loving honor of **Jane's 70's Birthday** (12/13) given by Barry Hackett.

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.

THE ADVENT CANDLES

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's dark season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has adapted that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

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.

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

WE RECORD OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE. We invite each member of your family in attendance to sign the friendship pad at the end of each pew. We are glad to have you worship with us!

PERSONAL PRIVACY DURING LIVESTREAM OF SUNDAY WORSHIP

It is important for our members, guests, and visitors to be aware that we livestream our worship service. If you are joining us for in person worship but prefer not to appear on the livestream video, we have 2 specific areas in the sanctuary where you can sit comfortably and not appear on the video. The first area is the left transept on the main floor and the second is the center balcony area. An usher will be happy to help you find these areas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PER CAPITA for 2024 is \$36.35.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE AT GLENSHAW VALLEY

Thursday, Dec. 21st is the longest night of the year. Even on the longest night of the year, when there are more hours of darkness than light, God is with us. Emmanuel is coming to meet us where we are, even if that is a seemingly low and joyless place. That is why we are joining with our friends at Glenshaw Valley for a special Longest Night service on **December 21st at 6:30pm**. All aspects of the service will remind us that God's presence is especially gifted for those who mourn and struggle. We hope to see you at Glenshaw Valley on Thursday.

LITURGISTS NEEDED

We need to expand our list of liturgist volunteers. Each Sunday we are grateful to everyone who aids in leading worship. One important role is that of liturgist. This person helps to lead the liturgy along with Pastor Emily. Any member is able to participate, as you don't need to be an Elder or Deacon to assist, and the liturgy text will be provided for you. Please consider this worship role!

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 by 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before your desired Sunday.



Christmas and Epiphany Season

Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

Sunday morning service will be held at 10:30 a.m.

A traditional candle-lit service will be held at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday December 31st, New Year's Day

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

Sunday January 7th, Epiphany

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

THIS WEEK AT GLENSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TODAY

December 17, 2023

- 9:30 AM Adult Education in the Parlor
- 9:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Fellowship in the Parlor

THURSDAY

December 21, 2023

- ALL DAY Church Office Closed
- 6:30 PM Carillon Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY

December 24, 2023

- 9:30 AM Adult Education in the Parlor
- 9:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

The church office will be closed

Thursday, December 21 through Monday January 1.
Have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

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 2024

Alain Richardson
Brian Helfferich
April Klein
Chick Pfeiffer

Class of 2025

Alan Cridge
Mark Held
Sherry Martin
Donna Walker

Class of 2026

Carla Berg
Ray Hack
Betty Miller
Tom Tabor

----- CHURCH STAFF -----

Rev. Emily Cooper, *Pastor*

Cell phone: 412-334-2730

Corinne Adkins, *Director of Music & Organist*

Lois Cridge, *Business Manager*

Jennifer Zanke, *Office Manager*

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

Frank Maksin, *Property Manager*

Lia Knight, *A/V Tech*

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