



Glenshaw

Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 31, 2023, 10:30 AM
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. David Cherwien

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITANY FOR THE PAST YEAR

First candle is lit

We light this candle remembering the children
who were baptized this past year into our congregation.

**This light beams so that all young people may be able
to grow up receiving affection and protection.**

Silence is kept.

Second candle is lit

We light this second candle remembering all those
who have experienced grief and loss in our congregation:
the death of a loved one,
the ending of a significant relationship,
the loss of employment.
This light beams for their continuing comfort and support.

Silence

Third candle is lit

We light this third candle remembering all those who
have shared in ministry in this place:
Ministers, lay preachers, organists and singers,
those who offered pastoral care
or reminded us of our wider community,
those who visited hospitals, nursing homes,
cooked meals or offered transport.
**This light beams with the compassion
of the Christ One in our midst.**

Silence

Fourth candle is lit

We light this fourth candle remembering all those who
have visited our congregation in recent times
and decided to call this place, 'home'.
**This light beams in order that we continue to explore and enjoy
everything we have received, as a gift.**

Silence

Fifth candle is lit

We light this fifth candle mindful of those who
have called us to risk the way of Jesus:
to create inclusive and safe,
open, and honest communities for all.
**This light beams as a symbol of hope
in the midst of both challenge and comfort.**

Silence

Sixth candle is lit

We light this sixth candle having each and everyone of us in mind, bearing each other in strengths and weaknesses, anxieties and hopes.

This light beams on the pathways we have welcomed
and where we didn't want to go.

**It will continue to shine for each and every one of us
on the new pathways we will tread. Amen.**

† HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymn 144

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you have asked us to feed and give drink to those who hunger, to clothe those who are naked, to welcome strangers, to visit those who are sick and imprisoned. When we look back on this year, we might be able to say we did some of those things. We remember the enthusiasm with which we started out this waning year, ready to do your work and witness to your love. But you know how things got in our way. We allowed ourselves to be swallowed up by worries and fear. We placed comfort of self before service to others. We took the "easy way out" whenever we could. And you wept for us. Now we are on the brink of the new year. We cannot change what we did not do, but we can make a covenant with you to be your witnesses in our words, thoughts and deeds to your people so that when you say, "Have you given food and drink to those who hunger and thirst, have you clothed the naked, welcomed the stranger, visited the sick and imprisoned?" We can respond with a joyful "Yes! Lord, we have done these things with joy and love!" Forgive us for what we have not done. Inspire us to do what you would have us do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

† SILENT CONFESSION

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

† **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 READING Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

NEW TESTAMENT READING Revelation 21:1-6a

SERMON Rev. Emily Cooper

† **HYMN** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* **Hymn 700**

† **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.glenshawchurch.org.*

OFFERTORY *Let There Be Peace on Earth* Sy Miller and Jill Jackson
Chancel Choir

† **DOXOLOGY** **Hymn 606**

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Let There Be Peace on Earth
Chancel Choir

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

† 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 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Hymn 136

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE *Chorus of Shepherds* Jacques Lemmens

WORSHIP NOTES

THE PARAMENTS FOR THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

The paraments for Christmas Eve include several symbols that are descriptive of Christ and his ministry: the lamb represents Christ's work of redemption; the fish, symbolic not only of our call to be disciples, also evokes an ancient understanding of Jesus Christ, a play on the Greek word for fish - *ixthous*, whose letters, in Greek, create an acronym for *Jesus Christ, Son of God, our Savior*; the crown symbolizes Christ as King; the shepherd's crook reminds us that Christ is the Good Shepherd; the dove represents not only the Spirit, but also Christ as Prince of Peace; and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega remind us that Christ is the first and the last, the living one.

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.

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.

THIS WEEK AT GLENSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TODAY **December 31, 2023**
 9:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
 10:30 AM Worship Service
 11:30 AM Fellowship in the Parlor

MONDAY **January 1, 2023**
 ALL DAY Church Office Closed

TUESDAY **January 2, 2023**
 7:00 PM Communications Committee Meeting

THURSDAY **January 4, 2023**
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY **January 7, 2023**
 9:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
 10:30 AM Worship Service
 11:30 AM Fellowship in the Parlor

 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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