

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018 · 10:00 AM**

(\* Those who are able, please stand. Large print hymnals, bulletins & wireless hearing aids are available. Ask an usher. Members, please wear your name tag.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Pastorale Symphony (Messiah)" Handel

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Garcia Family

Unison Prayer: **Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives & shine in our world. Amen**

\*HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads" # 10

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Leader: Helen Adsit

Invitation

Unison Prayer

**In your presence, Holy God,  
we confess that we need repentance.  
We have broken your commands.  
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.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Sharing God's Peace

Response "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 1 (v1)  
**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Zephaniah 3:14-20  
"The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God!**" OT Page 681

ANTHEM "Mary, Did You Know" Lowry and Greene, arr. Greer

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:7-18  
"The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God!**" NT Page 46

CHILDREN'S TALK Pastor Sam  
(4yr to Gr1 invited upstairs to Activity Period in 203. Children leave through front exits)

SERMON

\*HYMN "Fairest Lord Jesus" # 306

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed  
(See Laminated Pew Cards)

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory Music "Fairest Lord Jesus" arr Wood

Song of Praise "On Jordan's Bank" # 10 (v4)

**All praise to You, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore**

\*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Choral Prayer "The Lord is my Light" Berthier

Silent Prayer

Prayers of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer  
(Lord's Prayer on Laminated Pew Cards)

\*HYMN "Arise, Your Light Is Come!" # 411

\*BENEDICTION – concluding with

Leader: . Remember that God is good **People:.....All the time!**

\*SUNG RESPONSE (Choir starts followed by Congregation)

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way Through this and every coming day,  
That in Your Spirit strong and true Our lives may be our gift to You.**

POSTLUDE "People Look East" arr Barker

**Welcome Visitors.** Please leave your contact info on the pink card that you find in the pew rack. Pick up a Visitor's brochure from the back or ask an Usher!

**Mission Statement:** First Presbyterian Church exists to improve our understanding of Christ; to spread His word and teachings; and to reach out to our church family, our community, and the world through acts of compassion, kindness, and love

**A Staffed Nursery & Toddler Care Room** is located on the 1st floor behind the sanctuary. We also offer an optional Quiet Room for parents with small children located in the sanctuary back

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING TODAY:** Throughout the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season, there is no greater joy than watching the faces of our shut-ins as we carol to them. Come and join us for lunch and afterward, we caravan to our dear ones. Make a difference in the lives of our shut-ins!

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Today....10:00 am ..... Worship followed by Coffee Break in parlor

11:15 am ..... Church School

Noonish ..... Caroling & Lunch

Tues.....11:00 am ..... Rescue Mission Cook / Bruce Captain

Noon ..... PW Luncheon at Teddy's

7:00 pm ..... Trustees meet

Wed..... 4:20 pm ..... Rescue Mission serve

Thurs ..... 3:00 pm ..... BIB Packing

**NEXT SUNDAY ...2018 Christmas Pageant**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers** are led by Carl Longley. Dec 23: Jim Henderson

**Advent Wreath Lighters:** Garcia Family. Dec 23: Dunadee Family

**Layreader** is Helen Adsit; Dec 23: Christmas Pageant

**Worship Recorder** is Katrina Schell. Dec 23: John Nethaway

**Deacon Ramp Duty** is Bonnie Herter. Dec 23: Kiki Hinman

**Weekly Congregation & Presbytery Prayer List:** Jim, Kerry, Alex & Dylan Furney; Kirk & Linda Hinman; Dori Clark, Mike & Jackie Roush and Utica Presbytery Moderator, Stated Clerk & Staff

**Alternative Gift Giving:** Support A Cause in Honor of Someone You Love: Looking for the perfect gift for the person who has everything? Give a gift that brings hope and a new chance for a healthy and productive life for someone struggling to overcome poverty, & give that gift in honor of someone you love!. Table is in between the Bell Choir room & Custodial offices

**Throughout the holiday seasons** we receive several well-wishes to our congregation from friends & business associates. You'll find them displayed on the frame of Pastor Sam's door. While you're looking this season, please take a special peek at the Thanksgiving Card that we received from the Seneca Group. The painting on the cover is a replica of a larger version painted by our very own Steve Flanders!!!

**Monday, Jan 21: Martin Luther King Day** "Day of Service" – Please join us at church to help organize our new "Mission Closet" and clean the pantry in the downstairs kitchen!!

**The Ming Twig** thanks everyone who purchased poinsettias through us in their effort to aid Rome Hospital. Instructions for their care are on the board in the CE & Music room hallways. Enjoy their beauty for the remainder of the winter. Merry Christmas, Ming Twig