



The Beckley Presbyterian Church
203 South Kanawha Street
Beckley, West Virginia 25801



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2017
4th Sunday of Advent

"The mission of Beckley Presbyterian Church is to glorify God through the nurturing and equipping of our congregation to manifest our faith throughout God's creation with love, joy, hope, and open hearts."

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*If you are able, please stand for items marked **

Portions in bold type are for congregational participation.

This evening we will be using THE MESSAGE BIBLE

GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE GATHER AND CONFESS

PRELUDE

Music of the Season

Handbell Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The McNeel Family

Response with Cantor—*O Antiphon*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

(Unison prayer; Lighting the 4th Advent Candle, the Candle of Love)

Let us pray together **Glorious God, on this Christmas Eve, we sing beloved carols of Bethlehem, of shepherds and angels, of Mary and Joseph, and the infant Jesus, our Savior. Is there yet a new song we can sing to you? A song to be learned from the heavens and the earth: where the roar of the sea, the exultation of the fields, and the joy of the trees are already raised in a chorus of glad rejoicing, ready to welcome you. Even if no ear may hear your coming, help us hear the music of creation, even the firstborn of creation. Then, with the whole cosmos, we will sing of the light of your salvation, declare your glory, and in a crescendo of praise, bless your name: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace! Amen.**

* **HYMN 133**

O Come All Ye Faithful

* **CALL TO CONFESSION** (*Titus 2:12*)

Bill Hartling

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Together; Luke 2:7-9; Isaiah 9:4-5*)

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to

follow and find you. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

(Silence is kept.)

* **HYMN 551** *Lord Have Mercy* Kyrie Eleison

**Lord, have mercy; Christ Have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

* **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS** *(Responsive)*

Good news! Great joy! In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all. Glory to God in heaven, and on earth, peace.

What good news is this! Our sins are forgiven! The Infant that saves the world saves us. His Spirit grows within us

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
To this peace we were called as members of a single body.
Please greet or respond to one another;
The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

* **HYMN 581** *Glory Be to the Father* Response

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM *Sussex Carol* Philip Young

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HYMN 97 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

THE OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7 Page 638

HYMN 135 *There's a Star in the East*

Psalm 96 Page 550

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

Page 214

HYMN 115

Away in a Manger

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14-20 (*Responsive*)

Page 58

2¹⁻⁵ About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

6-7 While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

8-12 There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

13-14 At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

15-18 As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherders talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherders were impressed.

19-20 Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherders returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Looking for the Light of Christ: Danger in the Manger"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN 147

The First Nowell

* STATEMENT OF FAITH

Page 34

“The Nicene Creed” (*Responsive*)

PASTORS PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...In Joy or in sadness; we do not walk alone.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Tonight's offering is given to support local charities in our community

OFFERING

Offertory

Greensleeves

David Lanz

DOXOLOGY

Christmas Doxology



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* PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Together; Titus 2:13; Isaiah 9:2, 4, 5, 7*)

Great God, accept these gifts we offer as we wait in hope for your coming again. Use all that we have and all that we are as you bring light in every darkness, ease heavy burdens, and turn our endless warring into your endless peace. In Christ's name, we ask it. Amen.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Day

* **HOLY COMMUNION** (*Insert*)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (*Colossians 1: 15-17, THE MSG*)
and the sharing of that light

Let us pray together**Wondrous God, we praise you and bless you for the gift of your only begotten Son, the true light who enlightens everyone that has come into the world. May all who receive him and believe in his name be born anew as beloved children of your redeeming purpose. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

During the singing of "Silent Night" the ushers will light candles at the end of each pew, please then share the light with your neighbor. The congregation will follow the choir out of the sanctuary to carry Christ's light into the world. Please wait for the usher to release your pew.

GOD'S PEOPLE GO INTO THE WORLD

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Silent Night

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
 Round yon virgin mother and child!
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
 Glories stream from heaven a-far,
 Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
 Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."
 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
 Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
 With the angels let us sing,
 Alleluia to our King;
 Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

* **PROCLAMATION FROM THE STEPS**

Joy to the World

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Go In peace to love and serve the Lord.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

9:45 a.m.-Sunday School

10:55 a.m.-Worship/Holy Communion

7:00 p.m. Evening Service/Holy

Communion-Intinction

7 p.m. Worship on 99.5 FM Radio

THURSDAY, December 28

Noon - AA Meeting - Ed. Bldg

FRIDAY, December 29

Office Closed

8:00 p.m. - AA Meeting - Ed. Bldg

MONDAY, December 25

Office Closed

Christmas Day

Noon - AA Meeting - Ed. Bldg.

SUNDAY, December 31

Lessons & Carols

1st Sunday after Christmas

9:45 a.m.-Sunday School

10:55 a.m.-Worship

7 p.m. Worship on 99.5 FM Radio

TUESDAY, December 26

8:00 p.m. - AA Meeting - Ed. Bldg.

WEDNESDAY, December 27

Noon - AA Meeting - Ed. Bldg

WHEN THE SONG OF THE ANGELS IS STILLED

by Howard Thurman

When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Let us do this together at the Beckley Presbyterian Church

.... The work of Christmas!