

# *First Presbyterian Church*

*101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg, PA 17579*

*(717) 687-6030*

*www.straspres.org*



**Sunday, December 8, 2024**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

PASTOR: Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY INTERN: Jen Eisenberg

INTERIM ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER: Jonathan Jones

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC: Walter Kondratowski

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Beth Feiler

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH: Kristin Kondratowski

WORSHIP LEADER/READER: 8:30am Tricia Wilson / 11am Murray Miller

**WORSHIP: 8:30am and 11:00am**

Sunday, December 8, 2024

*Welcome*

8:30am Worship

*Open your heart and give yourself up to Christ who is here to meet you today.  
"Be still and know that I am God." ~ Psalm 46:10*

PRELUDE

*"Pastorale"*

J. S. Bach

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

***Gregory Family***

Family: This second Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way. May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation.

**People:** (Sung) **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.**

**Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*HYMN

*"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

No. 383

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

**Loving Lord, You tell us to prepare the Way of the Lord! Make His paths straight and clear! Fill in the holes and smooth out the bumps! Your ancient promise, O Lord, is fulfilled in Jesus, even though our faith has weakened while we waited. You come to us, even though we do not recognize You. You come to us, even though we choose paths of control, ease and hopelessness. Forgive us and restore us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE [*Please share Christ's peace with one another.*]

\*HYMN

*"Spirit of the Living God"*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ali Elias-Lizardo

ANTHEM

*"Joy To The World! (Medley)"*

arr. Roger Emerson

*Featuring Lancaster Bible College students Lydia Blankenbiller, Aaron Hershey and Julianna Traphagen*

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 32:4-9

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 17:14-21

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SERMON      *"Faith as a Marker of Advent"*      Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

\*HYMN                      *"Faith of Our Fathers"*                      insert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER                      Pg. 16

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY      *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*                      Gustav Holst

\*DOXOLOGY

PROFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

\*HYMN                      *"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"*                      No. 29

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                      *"In Dulci Jubilo"*                      J. S. Bach

*\*You are invited to stand if you are able during those places in the worship service marked with an asterisk.*

### Sermon Notes

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**NEXT WEEK ~ DECEMBER 15, 2024**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> WEEK OF ADVENT**

1<sup>st</sup> Scripture: Leviticus 27:30-34      2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture: Matthew 17:24-27

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon: *"Give No Offense"*

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema, Preaching

Greeting and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

***Edwards Family***

Family: This second Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way. May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation.

**People:** (Sung) **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.**

**Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*Praise & Worship

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*Hark*

*O Little Town (Emmanuel Has Come)*

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message

Ali Elias-Lizardo

Scripture

Deuteronomy 32:4-9

Matthew 17:14-21

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon *"Faith as a Marker of Advent"* Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Offering

\*Praise & Worship

*King of Kings*

\*Benediction

*\*You are invited to stand if you are able during those places in the worship service marked with an asterisk.*

**Prayer Requests** Please keep the following in your prayers.

Glenna Kirchner  
Reub Stoltzfus



*December Deacons of the Month:* Donna Stettler & Morgan Murphy  
*In Need of the Prayer Chain?* Please contact the church office at 717-687-6030.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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We are glad to see you here! Check out our website: [www.straspres.org](http://www.straspres.org) under the "Events" tab for current church events and please be sure to like us on Facebook.

Children's Church is available for kids K-5<sup>th</sup> grades. Children will go to room 11 after the children's sermon.

*Flowers are provided this Sunday to the glory of God from Kay Straley, in loving memory of husband Ron, brother Jim Filling, and other loved ones; and in honor of her family.*

*Flowers are provided this Sunday for the glory of God from Al & Sandy Bernstorf in loving memory of Betsey Bernstorf; Bill Brotzman; son-in-law, Mike Ranson; sister, Shirley and Noah Kreider.*

**COFFEE HOUR** • Join us each Sunday at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Hosts for today: Wayne & Fran Carr. Hosts for next week: The Marsh Family. Volunteers are needed! All volunteers will be reimbursed for their purchases. If you would like to help with Coffee Hour, please contact Theresa Rineer at 717-682-9954 or email [rineertheresa@yahoo.com](mailto:rineertheresa@yahoo.com). There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please choose the date(s) that work best for you!

**Kidz JAM (Jesus and Me)** choir rehearsal will continue this Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5:45pm to 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. We look forward to sharing this music ministry with children of all ages. Parents are welcome to stay for rehearsal. If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Jones at [jjones@straspres.org](mailto:jjones@straspres.org) or 484.949.4514.



**LIBRARY NEWS** • Did you know that a member of our congregation is a published author? MJ Lau has written several books and we now have one in our library written by him and his daughter Fiona. "The Borrowed Daughter" is great for middle grade children to read. But you can read it too!

**SEWING GROUPS** • Would you like to learn to sew, quilt or knit? The Stitching Sisters and Knifty Knitters would love to help you! If interested, contact Bette Davis or Pam Johnson. There is no age/gender requirement!



**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** • Every Sunday until Christmas you might be lucky enough to find a painted rock with an inspirational message. Keep it or pass it on to someone who needs a hug. The children made these rocks to go along with their Sunday school theme, living as Christians.





## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events!

**“OUR TABLE” WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY ~ Every Friday Night Beginning at 6pm** • Got friends? Bring ‘em along! Everyone is welcome at Our Table! The meal is followed by an interactive Bible study, worship songs, and prayer. Eat and run or stay for the fun; we’re just happy you showed up. There’s always room at Our Table!

**TODDLER GYM ~** Join us weekly on **Fridays from 9 - 10am (Sept. – May)** for playtime for ages 1 – Kindergarten with their caregivers. This program is free and open to the public and follows the Lampeter Strasburg School District schedule. For more information, contact Amy Black at 717-224-3036 or [ablack@straspres.org](mailto:ablack@straspres.org).

**SANTA’S HELPERS ~** This is just a friendly reminder to those who signed up to purchase a gift at the giving tree, that all gifts should be placed under the tree by **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please be sure to attached the tag to the gift.

**CHANCEL CHOIR •** If you enjoy singing beautiful, inspiring anthems, we invite you to join us for a one-hour rehearsal each Thursday at 7pm in the Choir Room and then again, each Sunday at 8am in the Sanctuary choir loft, for a 15-minute rehearsal. We would love to have you join us! If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact Jonathan Jones: [jjones@straspres.org](mailto:jjones@straspres.org) or 484.949.4514.

## ASSISTANCE CORNER

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to help on Sunday mornings during both services and Sunday school. Please consider helping at least one time per month. There is a sign-up sheet on the wall racks by the welcome desk, or contact Amy Black.

### CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- |               |               |                |         |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------|
| -Canned meats | -Canned soups | -Canned fruit  | -Jelly  |
| -Canned pasta | -Potato items | -Peanut butter | -Cereal |

Monetary donations are gladly accepted. Kindly use the envelopes marked FOOD found in the pews. This allows the volunteers to purchase most needed items when our stock is depleted. Thank you for considering this request.

**Please contribute your tithes and offerings using one of the following methods:**

- Place your contribution in the collection plate
- Scan the QR code to the right and follow the prompts
- Click the DONATE button on the church web site
- Mail your check to FPCS, 101 St. Decatur Street, Strasburg, PA 17579





## *Upcoming Advent & Christmas Programs*



**CHRISTMAS AT THE ORGAN** ~ Join us for an organ concert and Christmas carols **TONIGHT, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**, hosted by our very own Jonathan Jones.

**COURTYARD CAROLS FEATURING COOKIES AND HOT COCOA** ~ Join us on **December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** in the courtyard for a fire as we sing carols led by our very own Walter Kondratowski.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE** ~ **December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm** ~ **Sanctuary**  
Sometimes the comfort and joy of the Christmas season also comes with grief, loneliness, and/or fatigue. Blue Christmas offers a pause from the busyness and pressures of Christmas to simply be with God Immanuel and to be met by His unfailing love.



### **Christmas Eve Schedule ♦ December 24**



Children's Christmas Pageant • 4:30 PM  
Candlelight Worship Services • 8 PM & 11 PM



## **Memorial Poinsettias**



Orders are now being taken for memorial poinsettias for the upcoming Advent season. Cost is \$10 per plant. Please place this form, along with payment, in the Office Administrator's mailbox or drop off in the church office mail slot.

**Deadline for orders & payments: December 15, 2024**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pots \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_



# Faith of Our Fathers

710

1. Faith of our fa - thers,\* liv - ing still, in spite of dun - geon,  
 2. Faith of our fa - thers, we will strive to win all na - tions  
 3. Faith of our fa - thers, we will love both friend and foe in

fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with joy  
 un - to thee; and through the truth that comes from God,  
 all our strife; and preach thee, too, as love knows how

*Refrain*

when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word!  
 we all shall then be tru - ly free. Faith of our fa - thers,  
 by kind - ly words and vir - tuous life.

ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death.

\*"The martyrs" may be substituted for "our fathers"

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1849

MUSIC: Henri F. Hemy, 1864; adapt. by James G. Walton, 1874

ST. CATHERINE

88.88.88