

# The First Presbyterian Church

# HOPE

Worship Participants:  
Sally Dries, Guest Pastor  
Joan Thomas, Worship Assistant  
Kevin White, Greeter  
Jennifer White, Organist  
Leland Dietterick, Technical Director



Berwick, PA  
The Order of Worship Sunday December 1, 2024

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Berwick! We are glad that you are worshipping with us today. If you are visiting for the first time today, we invite you to sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary or scan the QR code to fill it out digitally. Throughout the service, the People make the responses in **bold** print.



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Every Valley *arr. by John Ness Beck*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion: Your God reigns!

**People Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it. Shout for joy, all the earth!**

Leader So let us worship our God this day!

\*OPENING HYMN #9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

<sup>1</sup> The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
It shall blossom abundantly  
And rejoice with praise and singing.

<sup>2</sup> The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
For the ears of the deaf shall hear  
And the blind, their eyes be opened.

<sup>3</sup> The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
For the tongue of the mute shall sing  
And the lame will dance with gladness.

<sup>4</sup> The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
For the ground will become a pool  
And the dry land springs of water.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mark your calendar and join us for the Deacons cookie exchange, **Sunday December 22nd**. Bring a batch or two of your favorite cookies to share and take an assortment of cookies home to enjoy!

### IN THE PULPIT

**December 1** Sally Dries

**December 8** Nancy Hardy

**December 15** Steve Engelhardt

**December 22** John Polhill

**December 24** Nancy Hardy

**December 29** Steve Engelhardt

### COMMUNION

December 24

### PRAYER LIST

Jerry and Jill Avery

Matthew Boggs

Wade Casaldi and family

DAngelo family

Bob Feick Family

Matt Gabel

Wilhelmina Hoover

Tom & Barb Huntington

Kishbaugh family

Joann Magners

Paul Moskaluk

Tammy Platukis

Alison Powlus

Nancy Raber

Jim Ross

Lauren Sadock

Jason Seltzer

Clio Strausser

Martha Yost

# Announcements

## WELCOME BACK AND THANK YOU!

This morning we welcome back Sally Dries to the pulpit. Welcome back Sally and thank you for leading us in worship this morning!

## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Advent devotionals have been emailed. If you would prefer a printed copy please contact the office so a copy can be sent to you.

## CONTINUED PRAYERS

Please continue to hold Clio Strausser in prayer as she continues her recovery. Your thoughts and prayers are very appreciated and a comfort to her.

## EMAIL/PHONE SCAMS

We received an email from Presbytery regarding a scam email circulating and wanted to pass along this reminder. With Christmas soon to be upon us, scam emails, calls and texts will be frequent.

Be vigilant this time of year and **never answer any email or text without verifying from the person in question.**

## BRIGHTER LIGHT CHORAL ENSEMBLE

The Brighter Light Choral Ensemble will be holding their annual Christmas concert at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, **Saturday, December 7th at 7pm.** Admission is free and open to the public.

A free will donation is collected but not necessary to attend.

## BERWICK COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Berwick Community Choir presents “That is Christmas to Me” at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, **Sunday, December 8th at 3pm.** Admission is free and open to the public. Refreshments to follow the concert.

## MEN’S BREAKFAST

Don’t forget, men’s breakfast is held **EVERY Wednesday** at 7:30am downstairs in the kitchen. All men are welcome to attend, fill up on hot cooked grub, join in fellowship and do whatever it is that men do.

<sup>5</sup> The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
As the ransomed return to God  
And come singing back to Zion,

<sup>6</sup> The desert shall rejoice  
And blossom as a rose:  
Unto Zion we come with joy,  
For our God has come to save us.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE—HOPE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and set lights in the sky — sun and moon and stars. By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys. By these stars, they knew God was with them.

Today we light one candle to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

We name this candle Hope. (*Light the candle.*)

We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of hope. Even when better days seem very far away and the weight of the world seems to crush your promises, we set our face steadily towards the light.

**ALL Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week, help us to *become* the signs of hope that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s hope. Amen.**

*Light One Candle (verse one)*

*Congregation should join singing of Light One Candle.*

Light one candle for Hope

One bright candle for Hope

Christ brings Hope to every heart

He comes, He comes

## CALL TO CONFESSION

John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the coming of God’s reign. So let us, too, repent, that we may be ready for God who comes to us soon. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God of hope and peace, whose Spirit works in us, calling us to be a faithful community. We confess how often we have not looked to you for wisdom and power for our living. We look to the world for our messiahs, seeking security in the things we own, in the prejudices and opinions we have acquired, in technological systems, economic structures, weapons of war. We are rich in the eyes of the world yet poor in faith. Forgive us, God. Hear now in silence our own personal prayers:**

*(Silence for people to examine their hearts in prayer)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader Jesus Christ is God's good news in a fake news world, God's grace in a graceless world. When we fix our hearts and hopes on God, we are assured of God's forgiveness and God's steadfast love. Sisters and brothers, accept the forgiving love of God.

**People We accept God's forgiveness.  
Thanks be to God! So let us live anew.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*PASSING THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
*arr. Joseph M. Martin*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Jeremiah 33:14-15,  
Luke 21:25-36  
John 18: 33-37

SERMON LOOK FOR SIGNS

\*HYMN#411 Arise Your Light Has Come

<sup>1</sup> Arise, your light is come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God,  
Which shines on you today.

<sup>2</sup> Arise, your light is come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captives' liberty,  
Good tidings to the poor.

<sup>3</sup> Arise, your light is come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the broken-hearted ones  
And comfort those who mourn.

<sup>4</sup> Arise, your light is come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong .

PASTORAL PRAYER – LORD'S PRAYER (debts and debtors)

\*CLOSING HYMN #8 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates  
*vs. 1 & 2*

<sup>1</sup> Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,  
Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here!

<sup>2</sup> Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

BENEDICTION

Leader You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;  
**People and all the mountains and hills shall break into singing**

Leader and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

**People God reigns!**

Leader Go in hope, go in peace.  
Go to be God's people each and every day!

**All Amen!**

\*MUSICAL BENEDICTION Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates  
*vs. 3*

<sup>3</sup> Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.  
Let me Thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.  
\*Will those who are able please stand