

## OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

1. Place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Send in your financial support via the USPS.
3. Contact the church office (814-725-8641) to set up direct deposit.
4. Give through PayPal at [paypal.me/fpcne](https://paypal.me/fpcne). Or scan the QR code with your phone camera to go right to the church's Paypal account.



**APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BOXES**, sponsored by the North East Council of Churches, are available at the back of the sanctuary. If you know of someone in need, please complete an application and submit to Pastor Gregg by December 5 for signature. Recipients will receive a gift certificate to Sanders Market. You can support this local mission by sending a donation made payable to "Community Christmas Boxes" and mail to: Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, c/o Anne Bardol, 51 West Main Street, North East PA 16428.

**PICK UP A COMPLETE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR ADVENT** at the back of the sanctuary.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS** by Wednesdays. Please email Pastor Gregg or Jane.

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"O Come O Come Emmanuel" CCLI Song # 31982 John Mason Neale | Thomas Helmore © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain | "Shine On Us" CCLI Song #1754646 Deborah D. Smith | Michael W. Smith © 1996 Milene Music/Deer Valley Music | "Creator of the Stars at Night" Latin hymn, 9th century | Jane Livingston | "Here I Am to Worship" CCLI Song #3266032 Tim Hughes © 2000 Thankyou Music | "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" Catherine Winkworth, Hans Leo Hassler, Johann Sebastian Bach, Paul Gerhardt CCLI Song #2402804 Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain



# First Sunday ADVENT

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25 West Main Street | North East, PA 16428  
(814) 725-8641 | [FPCNE.ORG](https://fpcne.org) | Follow us on Facebook

## WELCOME



**WELCOME TO ALL.** You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a child of God, joining in worship with our Christian family. Please take a moment to complete a Visitor/Guest Card, located in the pew racks, and place in one of the collection plates at the back of the sanctuary. We are glad you joined us today.

**TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP,** please turn off or silence cell phones, tablets, and all other wireless electronic devices upon entering the sanctuary.

**FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN:** Nursery care is available for infants and young children through pre-K. An usher will be happy to direct you to the Nursery-Crib Room. Sunday School is available for grade school ages following the Children's Blessing.

**ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** is available. Please contact a member of the media team to use the assisted listening devices.

**RESTROOMS** are located across from the office area and down the hallway in the Christian Education wing.

**PARKING IS AVAILABLE** in the designated church parking spaces on the south and east side of the church, as well as street parking. The municipal building parking lot west of the church is also available on nights and Sunday mornings.

**TODAY'S LITURGICAL COLOR IS PURPLE,** which is used during the penitential and preparation seasons of Advent and Lent.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL** is held on Facebook LIVE on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (ET). Please contact Pastor Gregg directly to share any prayer requests.

### CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

- Contact Pastor Gregg anytime at (814) 460-3123 (call or text) and [pastortownsend@yahoo.com](mailto:pastortownsend@yahoo.com).
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com).

Love caused Your incarnation. Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling that led You to embrace.  
In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

A glorious crown You give me. A treasure safe on high.  
That will not fail nor leave me as earthly riches fly.  
My heart shall bloom forever with joyful praises new.  
And from Your name shall never withhold the honor due.

**\* OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND**

**\* BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

## CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**STAY FOR COFFEE HOUR** after the worship service for snacks and fellowship. Our Worship and Music Committee has very special coffee hours planned throughout Advent.

**ALL MEN AND WOMEN ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FPCNE BOOK CLUB.** During December, Book Club will meet on December 11 at 2:00 PM and will be reading "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides. We hope you will consider joining us for a fun hour of fellowship and discussion.

## ADVENT SCHEDULE

**THE WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE WILL BE HOSTING SPECIAL COFFEE HOURS** each Sunday during Advent. Be sure to join us for a special time of fellowship and holiday festivities.

- December 3, 10:30 AM – First Sunday of Advent
- December 10, 10:30 AM – Second Sunday of Advent
- December 17, 10:30 AM – Third Sunday of Advent
- December 24, 10:30 AM – Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 24, 7:30 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 25, 10:30 AM – Christmas Day Service
- December 31, 10:30 AM – Songs, Carols & Readings

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

\* **RESPONDING IN SONG** “Creator of the Stars at Night” Insert

### HOLY COMMUNION

*Invitation*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*Words of Institution*

*Sharing the Bread and Cup (Please eat the bread and then drink the cup.)*

*Prayer*

### \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*From the O Antiphons, a traditional litany for December 17–23*

O Adonai, Ruler of the House of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai:

**Come with outstretched arm to save us. Come, Lord Jesus.**

O Radiant Dawn, Splendor of Eternal Light, Sun of Justice:  
**Come, shine on those who live in darkness and the shadow of death. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

## SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\* **CLOSING SONG** “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” #11

O Lord how shall I meet You? How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You. My hope my heart's delight.  
O kindle Lord most holy. A lamp within my breast.  
To do in spirit lowly all that may please You best.

## First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

December 3, 2023, 10:30 A.M.

First Sunday of Advent

Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

*\*Indicates to stand if you are able*

*SHARING OUR JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS. Please fill out one of the Prayer Cards located in the pew racks to share your joys, concerns, and prayer requests with your church family. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn.*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### GATHERING MUSIC

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Pastor Gregg Townsend

### \* GREETING

\* **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Leila Shields

Leader: In this season we sing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

**Congregation: “Emmanuel” means “God with us.”**

We light candles as a visible sign that we look to the advent, or coming, of Christ. All this . . . All the things we talked about in Advents and Christmases past, and all the things we will talk about in the weeks ahead, “All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet Isaiah:

**Congregation: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’”**

Zechariah the prophet spoke of “the rising sun [that] will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace” and this same Jesus

declared in Revelation, “I am the Root and Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star,” And he promised, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

**And so, we have hope. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

—based on Matthew 1:22–23 (NRSVA); Luke 1:78–79 (NIV); Revelation 22:16, 20 (NIV)

**\* OPENING HYMN** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

“Here I Am to Worship”

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore You.  
Hope of a life spent with You.

**Here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.  
Here I am to say that You’re my God.  
You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.**

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly You came to the earth You created.  
All for love’s sake became poor. (**Chorus**)

I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.  
I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.  
(**Chorus**)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of our light and salvation, the bright Morning Star, we  
confess that we have grown accustomed to darkness. In your light  
we see challenges to our stability and comfort. We look at  
ourselves and into our own hearts and deepest thoughts, and we  
do not like what you show us.**

**Forgive us our many sins. In this season of Advent and beyond,  
teach us to walk in your light, in the power of your Holy Spirit,  
as disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“Shine On Us”

Lord, let Your light, light of Your face, shine on us.  
Lord, let Your light, light of Your face, shine on us.  
That we may be saved, that we may have life,  
To find our way in the darkest night. Let Your light shine on us.

Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand, fall on us.  
Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand, fall on us.  
That we may be saved, that we may have life,  
To find our way in the darkest night. Let Your grace fall on us.

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**CHILDREN’S BLESSING**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Sophie Tyler and Jane Livingston, Flute, J.B. Salter, Clarinet

**\* PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death’s dark shadows put to flight  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**\* SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Malachi 4:1-2, Luke 1:78-79

**MESSAGE**

“Come, Dayspring”