

# A Christmas Carol (Comfort & Joy)

Words by Gregg Townsend

Traditional English 18th Century Carol

1. What is your busi - ness my dear friend? How  
3 have you spent your days? Mar - ley is here to  
6 warn\_\_ you. There is a - no - ther way. A  
9 Just Branch shall spring forth un - to us, Lord of right-eous -  
12 ness. O,\_\_ tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and  
16 joy! O,\_\_ tid - ings of com - fort and joy!



## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### First Presbyterian Church

25 West Main Street | North East, PA 16428  
(814) 725-8641 | [FPCNE.ORG](http://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 it in the collection plate during the time of Offering. 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.

**ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING and VISUALLY IMPAIRED** is available. Please contact a member of the media team if you wish 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 BLUE,** 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).
- Please send announcements or calendar events to Jane.

## ADVENT SCHEDULE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- November 28, 10:30 AM – First Sunday in Advent
- December 5, 10:30 AM – Second Sunday in Advent
- December 5, 4:00 PM – Advent Program and Reception
- December 12, 10:30 AM – Third Sunday in Advent
- December 12, 4:00 to 6:00 PM – Holiday Open House at Pastor Gregg & Jane's Home, 20 Gibson Street
- December 19, 10:30 AM – Fourth Sunday in Advent
- December 19, 6:00-7:30 PM – Christmas Caroling
- December 24, 7:30 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 25, 10:30 AM – Christmas Day Service
- December 26, 10:30 AM – A Service of Songs, Carols & Readings

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BOXES

**EACH YEAR, IT IS OUR JOY AS A CHURCH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NORTH EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BOXES.** Like last year, the Council is planning to provide a Food Gift Certificate to Sander's Market to each approved applicant. The goal is to provide a \$100 gift certificate per average family size. This is a great way to help minister to our community and bless needy homes in a way that glorifies the goodness and love of Jesus Christ. If you'd like to contribute, please make your donation 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. Applications are available in the Assembly room and need to be submitted to Pastor Gregg for signature.

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**IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, JOY OR CONCERN TO SHARE,** please speak with Pastor Gregg or call or text his cell phone at (814) 460-3123. You can also email our prayer chain at [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com) or text Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135.

## OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

There are four easy ways to give your financial gift to the church:

1. For in-person worshippers, place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Send in your financial support via the **USPS to 25 West Main Street, North East PA 16428.**
3. Contact the church office (814-725-8641) to set up **direct deposit.**
4. You can also now give through **PayPal.** Just click on the link: [paypal.me/fpcne](https://paypal.me/fpcne).

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“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” CCLI Song # 154773 Gerard Moultrie © Words: Public Domain  
Music: Public Domain | CCLI Song # 39441 | “God Rest Ye Merry” © Words: Public Domain | Music: Public Domain | “Come Emmanuel” CCLI Song # 3413311. © 2001 New Spring. David Moffitt | Sue C. Smith

## CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DECORATE THIS YEAR’S SANCTUARY CHRISTMAS TREE.** To follow along with our Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” theme, we are decorating our tree Victorian style! Feel free to go on Pinterest to get great ideas using old Christmas cards. We also have craft bags available for you to take home to make and bring back to our Advent Program on December 5 at 4:00 PM.

**A CONGREGATION MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS** will be held on December 12 immediately following the morning worship service. Please plan to attend. We will meet in the sanctuary.

**COME CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH US** on December 19 from 6:00-7:30 PM. We will carol around a few neighborhoods and then return to the church for cookies and hot chocolate. Please speak with Pastor Gregg or Jane if you’d like to participate or to make suggestions for folks to visit. We plan to do a combination of walking and driving. Should be fun!

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. We collected 26 boxes to help bless children around the world!

## First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

November 28, 2021, 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*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**GATHERING MUSIC** “Variation on Canon” arr. Wilson

**WELCOME** Pastor Gregg Townsend

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** Bell Choir  
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP AND THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

Leader: Let us worship God.

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God’s unending love and faithfulness.

**Congregation: The prophet Isaiah said, “The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”**

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, “Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

**We rejoice that we too have found favor with God.**

God’s mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.

—based on Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:28, NIV

**\* OPENING PRAISE** “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand.  
Ponder nothing earthly minded for with blessing in His hand.  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood.  
Lord of lords in human vesture in the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav’nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way.  
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day.  
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye.  
Veil their faces to the presence as with ceaseless voice they cry.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Hear my prayer, O heavenly Father,**

**My sins are heavy, but Thy mercy  
Far outweighs them, every one;  
Down before Thy cross I cast them,  
Trusting in Thy help alone.**

**None shall measure out Thy patience  
By the span of human thought;  
None shall bound the tender mercies  
Which Thy Holy Son has bought.**

**Pardon all my past transgressions,  
Give me strength for days to come;  
Guide and guard me with Thy blessing  
Till Thy angels bid me home.**

Charles Dickens

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

**MESSAGE**

“What Is Our Business?”

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\* RESPONDING IN SONG**

See Back Page

“A Christmas Carol (Comfort and Joy)”

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\* CLOSING SONG**

“Come, Emmanuel”

Come, O come Emmanuel. Holy One, Deliverer, Redeemer.  
Free us from our darkness and lead us to Your light.  
Lord we need the hope that only You can give, You can give.  
So come, O come Emmanuel. Come, O come Emmanuel.

Come, O come Emmanuel. You alone will be the One we worship.  
Make Your home among us and fill us with Your love.  
With our songs and praises we invite You in. We invite You in.  
So come, O come Emmanuel. Come, O come Emmanuel.

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

**\* BENEDICTION**

**Together: “God Bless Us, Every One!”**

**\* POSTLUDE**