

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, eleven o'clock 1st Sunday of Advent November 29, 2009

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

"He Hideth My Soul"

Arr.: Cindy Berry

CHORAL INTROIT # 9 (verse 1)

"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 thee, O Israel!

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*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen –

People: God invites us to prepare the way.

Leader: Watch –

People: Signs appear in the wilderness.

Leader: Prepare –

People: Good news is on the way.

Leader: Rejoice –

People: Our hard times are over.

Leader: Be at peace –

People: We rest in God's promises, and exult in God's coming.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 2

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, we come to you in this time of anticipation and waiting for the birth of your Son, your greatest gift to us. And as we think about the gifts you give to us every day, we realize the wrongs we do despite them.

Lord forgive us for the many sins we create, and for every time we turn our backs on you to create them. Lord, in this time help us to keep you in our minds and hearts so that we may drift away from sin and come closer to you.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 23

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

THE ILLUMINATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Sean Madden & Roger Hecht

UNISON PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Dear God, through your Spirit you spoke to prophets,
and the people prayed and waited for a Messiah to come.
Through your Spirit you spoke to Mary and Joseph,
and they responded and waited for their child to be born.
Through your Spirit, speak to each of us
that we may feel your presence and know your will
in our Advent waiting this year. Amen.

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS pg. 738

Jeremiah 33:14-16

ANTHEM

"Come, Christ of God"

John Parker/Stan Pethel

Come, Christ of God, come today to wipe our tears of pain away. In compassion, Lord, send your Son. Come, Christ of God, O come. Come, Christ of God, come and heal the hidden scars our souls conceal. Mend in us a heart undone. Come, Christ of God, Hope for the hopeless, rest for the weary, our Savior will soon be at hand. Yet, as he tarries, Lord, we are praying, send down your Christ to heal our land! O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel. Come, Christ of God today. Come, O Christ to Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Come, Christ of God, come and shine your light of hope, for we are blind. Open eyes to see the shining sun. Come, Christ of God, O Come.

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CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Eileen Madden

***Gateway to Worship*

*HYMN OF PREPARATION # 448

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS pg. 85

Luke 21:25-36

SERMON

It's the End of the World As We Know It

Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING FAITHFULLY TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace"

James McGranahan

*Doxology # 4, verse 4 (see insert)

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF CONSECRATION # 449

"My Lord! What a Morning"

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING RESPONSE (see insert)

"Soon and Very Soon"

*POSTLUDE

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

Arr.: Cindy Berry

*For those who are able, please stand.

****Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year olds through first graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Moments.

Please join us in the library immediately after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Service Notes:

- The Advent Candles will be lit by this year’s Confirmands and their Mentors.
- The prayers of confession this Advent season were written by members of the high school group, John Cary, Melissa Freeman, Ellen Hagelberg and Nik Hopkins.
- The bulletin covers for Advent were created by the elementary school children with the able assistance of their teacher, Eileen Madden.
- Many thanks to the team who worked long and faithfully to plan for worship in Advent: Randy Adams, Ellen Hagelberg, Nik Hopkins, Eileen Madden and Sue Sheffield.

ADVENT SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

Everyone is welcome on Sunday nights for food, fellowship & fun and we observe Advent. All events begin at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 29 (tonight): New Year’s in November – To celebrate the beginning of the Christian calendar and the first Sunday in Advent, we’re throwing a New Year’s party! Bring an appetizer and join us for fun and games.

Sunday, December 6: Service Project: The River – After dinner, we will be stuffing stockings and wrapping donated gifts for the women of The River. *(A list of needed items is on the table in the Narthex above the collection bins.)* There will be a supper sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we will know how many to cook for.

Sunday, December 13: Church Night Potluck Supper – Supper will be followed by the youth-led Christmas program.

Sunday, December 20: Christmas Caroling – Meet at the church to carol at various members’ houses and nursing homes. After caroling we will bring snacks to share at the Amstutz home.

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The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation.

The **December Courier** can be found on the table in the narthex.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Jim Starr	Chimer:	Julia Hagelberg
Liturgist:	Eileen Madden	Gateway:	Karen Mabe
Acolytes:	Philip Hagelberg	Nursery:	Sally Nagel
	Mark Jones	Coffee Hosts:	Session

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor:	Rev. Sharon H. Amstutz	Secretary:	Tina Simon
Director of Youth Ministry:	Andy Irvin	Nursery:	Jeanne Gamble
Choir Director:	Randy Adams	Custodian:	Marie Britt
Pianist:	Amy Jones		

Good Samaritan–We will continue to collect good, used **men's pants** and **winter coats** thru the end of the year, so you still have time to go through your closets and storage bins!

Is it too late?! Not for **Alternative Gift** giving. Each mission could still use and appreciates your help, this year more than ever. If you missed worship last Sunday and would like to give a gift in a friend or family member’s name, there is still time. Missions are: **Grandfather Home for Children, Heifer Project International, Holston Presbytery Camp, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Living Waters for the World, The River, and Youth & Young Adult Ministry at ETSU.** You may use the **enclosed Alternative Gift form** to indicate your support. (Cards and envelopes for your use are available in the church office.) These forms may be turned in any time during Advent. Thank you.

Poinsettias! If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas season, please use the enclosed order form. Cost is \$10 each this year and the deadline for ordering is **Sunday, November 29th!**

Committee Chairs need to have their 2010 budget requests to Gary Smith, Shirley Hines or Hal Hunter as soon as possible.

2010 Tithes - We are working with your pledges for 2010 to develop the budget. It is very important that we receive your information soon to be able to complete the process. Our goal is to be finished by December 1st. (Please remember that as year end approaches, your tithes and offerings will be credited to your 2009 Statement of Giving if made before Dec. 31st.) If you have questions, please contact Shirley Hines or Hal Hunter.

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Alan & Deborah Lewis, John Merriss, Rod Irvin (Andy’s father), the Dulin family, Elva McCartt, the Smith family, Roger Hecht, Peter Block, Will Favre (friend of David Wood & Phyllis Thompson) and family in the death of Will’s dad, Sue Sheffield, Marvin Parker (Evelyn Kemp’s cousin), Bob Hunter (Hal’s brother), Pat Adams, Christian James Ward (baby of friend of Sue Crandall), Anna Welker (friend of the Sutter’s), George Gardner (the Willis’ brother-in-law), Lane Johnson (CB Willis’ cousin), Harriette Carr, Ed & Marie Britt, Bill Bader (Steve’s brother), Stephanie Muncie (friend of Hines family), Shelly Thornton (Gwen Hunter’s cousin’s 4-year old granddaughter), Corrine Broyles, Julia Trifiletti, Aneita Carr, Agnes Plank, Helene Herbert

If you know of other reasons for rejoicing or concerns you would like to share with others please complete a prayer card with your requests.

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THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<u>Today, November 29</u>	<u>Wednesday, December 2</u>	
Deadline for Angel Tree Gifts	4:45p	WNL!
9:00a	Chime Rehearsal	7:30p
6:00p	Advent Activity	Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday, December 1</u>	<u>Thursday, December 3</u>	
8:15a	8:00a	Men’s Bible Study
10:00a	9:30a	Women in the Bible
6:30p	Noon	Al-Anon Meeting
7:00p	<u>Saturday, December 5</u>	
7:00p	9:30a	Greening of the Church
7:00p		
7:30p		