~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

TODAY, after worship, you are invited to Fellowship Hall for conversation and light refreshments.

TODAY, serving in worship:
Reader: Deb Ryerson
Advent Candle Lighters: The Myers Family
Greeters/Ushers: Ryan Crim; Jim & Barb Crum
Fellowship Hosts: Suzanne McKinnon; Deb Ryerson; Tracy Sommers
Video Recorder: Joe Shane
Audio Recorder: Ray Thomas

TODAY after worship, Deacons and helpers will assemble gift bags of the cookies you baked, then deliver them to the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry for distribution to truckers/travelers in our area during the Christmas season. Helpers welcome! We are grateful for your kindness & baking skills!

THANK YOU. . . .
~ to the Parish Life Committee and All who contributed in any way to making last Sunday's annual Advent Luncheon such a lovely time of food and fellowship! Truly, a good time was had by all!
~ for your participation in this year's Angel Tree ministry – providing Christmas gifts for 28 children and youth through Community CARES, Shippensburg. Your generosity is appreciated!
~ to yesterday's bell-ringing team, who manned The Salvation Army's kettle bells at Karn's Market, Spring Road.

THIS WEEK, in our prayers:
*** in the church:** The General Assembly & Synod staffs
*** in the presbytery:** Church Musicians
*** in the congregation (at random):** Marita Neslund: Frank, Liz & Wade Valle

THIS WEEK, in the life of the church:
- **Tuesday, 7 PM:** Session meeting
- **Wednesday, 7 PM:** Choir rehearsal
- **Thursday, 8 AM:** Men's Breakfast (Sunnyside)
- **Thursday, 5:30 PM:** "Dining with the Deacons" (Marcello's) ***(sign-up!)***

NEXT SUNDAY.....4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT.....DEC. 21st
> 9:15 AM: Prayer, sanctuary
> 9:30 AM: Sunday school; Adult Advent class
> 10:45 AM: Worship; Bell Sunday
> After worship: Fellowship time / Prayer Community meets

NEXT SUNDAY IS BELL SUNDAY! As is our tradition, you are invited to bring your favorite bell to ring vigorously during the last stanza of the final hymn, announcing the expected arrival of Jesus, our Lord!

Members of the Congregation, Ministers
The Rev. Anthony D. Lorenz, Pastor
The Rev. Jon A. Black, Pastor Emeritus
Debby Madden, Educator Emerita
Arthur Thompson, Organist; Ron Richcreek, Music Director
Avis Allen, Secretary; Chuck Adler, Sexton
Church Office Hours: Mon. & Wed., 9 AM-2 PM
Phone: (717) 243-4612; E-mail: fpcarl@pa.net;
Website: www.firstprescarlisle.org

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Church Officers

Elders	Deacons
Deb Richcreek	Vicki McLaughlin
Deb Ryerson	Rick Line
Joe Shane	Kathy Mulvey
Nancy Jacoby	Ray Thomas
Charlie Thompson	Barbara Allen
Susan Palyo	Mary Jane Blosser
Lynne Hofferica	Bonnie Deardorff
Lynda Mann	Pat Peffer
Richard Bressler	Earlene Heckendorn

First Presbyterian Church On-the-Square Carlisle, Pennsylvania

December 14, 2025

10:45 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING

PRELUDES
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Gilbert
O Come, Little Children Gilbert
Lift Up Your Heads Gilbert

(The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**)
~ GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

The First Noel arr. Stevens
Brenna Myers, piano

* CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Sing praises to the Lord, who has done gloriously:
Let God's deeds be known in all the earth.
We will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
we will praise God with our whole being.

On the third Sunday of Advent, we light three candles. Our hope grows stronger, and our joy grows brighter as we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming. We look and pray for the day that God will bring all people home with shouts of joy.
Come, Lord Jesus. In your light we will trust and not be afraid.

In God's promised new heaven and new earth: "The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it."
Come, Lord Jesus. In your light we will trust and not be afraid.

* HYMN #13 – "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our salvation,
in Christ you have done great things,
our hearts are filled with joy.
By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin
and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom.
Salvation is your gift to us.
But we confess that we often try
to replace your gift with our own feeble efforts.
We try to complete what is already perfect;
we try to add to what is already full;
we try to earn what we already have.
Forgive us for our foolishness.
Help us to focus on your grace.
Help us to live grateful lives in return.
For Jesus' sake alone. AMEN
(silent confession . . .)

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* RESPONSE #579 – "Gloria Patri"

* PASSING THE PEACE

Just as God has forgiven us in Christ Jesus, let us also forgive one another and offer signs of peace and reconciliation.
The peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**
(Extend a word of peace with one another . . .)

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10 (O.T., p. 663)
(The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God!**)

CHOIR ANTHEM "One Star" Albrecht/Althouse

SECOND LESSON Matthew 11:1-11 (N.T., p. 11)
(The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God!**)

SERMON Rev. Lorenz

* HYMN *(insert)* – "The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy"

* THE APOSTLES' CREED (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven
and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,
and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose
again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth
on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence
he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the
Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of
saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. AMEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (p. 16, blue hymnal)

GIVING THANKS

OFFERING OURSELVES
Offertory *Noel Touraine* Russell

* RESPONSE #592 – "Praise God"

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God,
you have done and are doing great things for us,
and holy is your name.
Bless all we offer you --
our selves, our time, and our possessions –
that through us your grace and favor
may be made known to all the world,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. AMEN

SENDING

* HYMN #38 – "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

* BENEDICTION

* CLOSING RESPONSE #31 – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *(v. 2)*
Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

* POSTLUDE *Sleepers, Wake!* Lau

***** indicates please stand, if able
BOLD indicates ALL read
Children's Worship Bulletins are available; an usher can assist you

WE BID ALL who have come to worship a warm welcome in the name of Jesus Christ! If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become part of this community of faith and learn about what it means to follow Jesus Christ. Find more info at: www.firstprescarlisle.org.