

# THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

55 Smith Street East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18301 570-421-5821

(\*Indicates to stand, in body or spirit)  
Live-Streamed

All services are

### December 3, 2023

#### Service for the Lord's Day

## First Sunday in Advent - Communion

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ARR. CINDY BERRY

### GATHERING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the quiet corners of our hearts, we gather in hope, awaiting the fulfillment of promises.

**P: We come with anticipation, trusting in the steadfast love of our God.**

L: Like Simeon of old, who waited with hope and saw the Light of the world, we too wait for the dawning of God's promises.

**P: We wait with expectation, for our hope is anchored in the One who never fails.**

L: Let us worship with hope, knowing that the God who fulfilled Simeon's hope is faithful and true.

**All: Our hope is in the Lord, the source of everlasting joy. Amen.**

Advent Candle Lighting- Hope

\*HYMN NO. 83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**As we gather in this sacred space, we come before You with hearts filled with hope. Like Simeon of old, who waited patiently for the fulfillment of Your promises, we too wait with anticipation. In the waiting, grant us patience. In the hoping, fill us with expectation. May our trust in Your faithfulness deepen, knowing that You are the God who keeps every promise. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM "A Tiny Child Will Come/A Simple Stable" DON BESIG & NANCY PRICE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**In the stillness of this moment, we come before You with hearts laid bare. We confess that at times, our hope has wavered, and our trust in Your promises has faltered. Forgive us, O Lord, for the times we have let doubt overshadow our hope, and for the moments when impatience has clouded our trust in Your plan. We confess our human frailty, knowing that You are the God of unwavering promises and steadfast love. May our waiting be filled with trust, and may our hearts be anchored in the assurance of Your faithfulness. We thank You for the forgiveness that flows from Your boundless love and the hope that is continually offered in Christ. In the name of Jesus, our Hope and Redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

□ Moment for Silent Reflection □

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI (Pg. 581 in red hymnal)

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end, amen. Amen.**

\*THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

## THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

*Isaiah 40:25-31 (Pg. 668)*

NEW TESTAMENT

*Luke 2:25-35 (Pg. 59)*

EPISTLE

*Romans 15:1-6 (Pg. 163)*

L: Word of God for the people of God  
P: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Simeon’s Advent Hope”

Pastor Nicki

HYMN NO. 508

“Come to the Table”

## SENDING

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
(see insert)

HYMN NO. 39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

BY RICK FOUNDS

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please use the blue prayer request cards in the pews for your prayer requests. Place them in the offering plate so Pastor can include them in the Pastoral Prayer.

GREETERS for today are Colin and Heather Barrett.

LAY READER for today is Heather Barrett.

THE FLOWERS this week are given by Chris Neighbors in memory of Ed Neighbors and Richard Gelio.

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY this week is Ann Healy.

### Church Elders

Sharon Laverdure   Rick Sanker   Ellie Buff  
Sandra Rydell   Judy Schreck   Jim Hall  
Phil Lawrence   Debbie Prince   Lisa Swanson

### Church Staff

Nicole Vogel  
Jen Carmella  
Linda Schaller  
Sami Carmella  
Keith Karkut

Pastor  
Secretary  
Music Director  
Nursery Attendant  
Technology/Custodian

### THIS WEEK AT E.S.P.C.

Today

~ Worship, 10:00 a.m.

~ Fellowship Hour, following worship

~ Bell Choir rehearsal, following worship

Saturday

~ Practice for Lessons and Carols at 9:30 at First Presbyterian

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