



Looking Toward Bethlehem

First Sunday in Advent
December 1, 2013



1st Sunday in Advent

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

When the church bell is rung let us be silent for worship.
**Please stand if able*

PRELUDE

Veni Emmanuel

arr. Robert J. Powell

THE GREETING OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wherever you may be in the journey of faith, Leesburg Presbyterian Church welcomes you. We are a community where persons from different faith backgrounds and understandings find unity in the wide embrace of Christ's love and call to service. If you are passing through, we extend God's blessing to you as you continue on your way. If you are seeking a home, we invite you to join us in the adventure of serving Jesus Christ in a challenging world.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH —THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Linda and Bob Duffey (8:30)

Christian and Laura Hoff (11:00)

RESPONSE #137

He Came Down

He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forevermore.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Behold, a path to our God.

Winding through the ordinary

weaving through the busyness,

overcoming roadblocks and detours,

Behold, a way to find home.

Leaving the past in the past,

moving from darkness and exile,

coming into the light.

Advent is a path to our God.

A way to find home,

a rediscovery of God's Voice.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, God is with us!

*HYMN #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy God, always you are near to those who seek you in faith, and to all who ask, you grant hope. Having wandered from your way, we confess we are weak in faith and trust. Centering our lives on our difficulties, we lose hope, and fail to seek your guidance for tomorrow. Impatiently we live our lives, refusing to trust in the providential unfolding of your will in our lives.

We pray for your forgiveness, asking you to prepare us for a new coming of your Son into our Church, and our lives and our families. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

(silence is kept)

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE #583 *(sing twice)* *Glory to God*

GLORIA (Taize)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, we give our best to you, not out of guilt or fear, but with gratitude and faith. You have been our support in times of need. Every breath we take is a gift from you. We dedicate these symbols of thankfulness and all the days of our lives to your purposes. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

pew bible p. 631

Micah 5:2-5

pew bible p. 865

ANTHEM

The People who Walk in Darkness

SERMON

“Advent 1: The Prophets Look Toward Bethlehem”

Rev. Ruth Everhart

HYMN #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us pray ...

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF THE MEAL

When you receive the bread, please wait until the pastor leads us to partake of it together. You are invited to partake of the cup as you are individually ready. The separately wrapped slice on each plate is gluten free.

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.

*HYMN #104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

ASSISTING: 8:30 a.m.

Liturgists: Frank Gasperini

Ushers: Linda and Bob Duffey

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m.

Frank Gasperini

Evelyn Rollison and Nancy Blaine

Taylor Vigil and Trinity Neely

Sunday, December 1, 2013
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK

Mon.	December 2	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
Tues.	December 3	7:30 p.m.	Deacons
Wed.	December 4	6:30 p.m.	Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles
		7:00 p.m.	Choir
Thurs.	December 5	10:00 a.m.	Circle One
Fri.	December 6	6:00 p.m.	LPCP Parents' Night Out

Children in Worship:

Because the safety of our young children matters deeply to all of us, we encourage families with little ones to choose a seat other than the front row of the balcony.

Infants to 3 year olds – are cared for by two professional caregivers, Miss Pat and Miss Bonnie, in the nursery on the first floor of the education wing from 8:15 to 12:15. *Only parents* can drop off children at the nursery in order to communicate with providers. Drop off can happen before worship, after Time with Children message, or at any other time during the worship service. Ushers or the acolyte will be happy to show parents where the nursery is located.

4 year olds to 3rd grade – are invited to participate in *Godly Play* after the children's message. *Godly Play* provides age appropriate worship for children that helps them deepen their understanding of God through storytelling, hands-on activities and prayer. If children decide not to enter the *Godly Play* room, or are too young or too old for the designated age range, they will be accompanied by the acolyte back to the sanctuary and reunited with their parents.

4th grade and up – remain in the sanctuary to participate in the worship service.

To Our Visitors Whether you have visited with us before or are visiting today for the first time, we hope you experience the open-hearted hospitality of the Living Christ in our community of faith as we gather in his name for Sabbath worship. Because it is our desire to get to know you better and to be able to communicate with you about our life and ministry, we appreciate you filling out the attendance register. One becomes a member of a Presbyterian church in one of three ways: 1) Profession of Faith, 2) Re-affirmation of Faith, 3) by Letter of Transfer from a previous church.

Prayer Chain Prayer requests are confidentially and conscientiously lifted to God by members of the Prayer Chain every day. Please email prayer@lpcva.org if you have a special need or concern you wish to share through a praying church.

In Our Prayers we remember: Harry Brown, Barbara Drumm, Jane Wallace, Hal and Mary Lib Glover. Our prayers are constant for the women and men of the Armed Forces and their families.

Leesburg Presbyterian Church Preschool Board and Teachers are Proud to Sponsor **Team Shawn Parents Night Out!** Friday, December 6, 6:00-8:30. Enjoy a relaxing evening walking through downtown Leesburg for First Friday and enjoy a dinner night out! Downtown merchants are open until 9! This is open to all LPC members and LPCP students and their siblings. Cost is \$15.00 for one child and \$25.00 for the family. Please look for the sign up sheet (outside the Four's room). You must complete a child information form for each child attending. Availability is limited! If you have any questions please contact Elaine Thiel or Gloria Haines at (703) 771-1461 or etthiel@lpcva.org. Proceeds to go to "Team Shawn" to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

LPC Men's Night All LPC men are invited to a "Men's Night Out" on Thursday, December 12, from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, hosted by Christian Hoff at his home in Leesburg. Sliders and brats will be grilled, so please bring a drink of your choosing and/or a side dish to share. Please RSVP to Cindy in the office at 703-777-4163 or office@lpcva.org by Tuesday, December 10th so we can have an approximate head count. Watch for an email with more details.

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles Emma Clemens and Ruth Circles will have their annual Christmas party at Faye Vance's home on our regular meeting night of Wednesday, December 4th. Bring a \$10.00 or under gift for a Chinese gift exchange. Our January meeting will take place on the SECOND Wednesday, January 8th, 2014.

Circle One Thursday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. A time for informal study and conversation, circles are a great way to meet other women in the church. Circle One meets throughout the school year on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am at LPC.

We welcome **Rev. Ruth Everhart** to the pulpit today. Rev. Everhart lives in Sterling and is a friend of Pastor Debbie and the congregation. She is the author of "Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land" about a pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine. She will be teaching the adult studies class today on her pilgrimage experience in Bethlehem. Her book will be available for purchase in the parlor. She invites you to read her blog, Work in Progress (go to www.rutheverhart.com/blog), friend her on Facebook (Ruth Huizenga Everhart) or follow her on Twitter (@rutheverhart).

LEESBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Phone: 703-777-4163

www.LeesburgPresbyterian.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday: 9-3; Friday: 9-2

2013 Alternative Christmas Faire Sunday, December 8, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. For the past several years, the Mission & Witness Committee has provided the congregation several opportunities to shop for alternative gifts during the holiday season. This year we have decided to focus on Youth activities within the local and international communities. We will provide opportunities to learn more about important and impactful missions to educate, support, and nurture our youth. You will have the chance to make gifts to support: Backpack Buddies Weekend Meals, R.O.C.K. (Recreational Outreach to Community Kids in Leesburg), Mobile Hope Health Services in Loudoun County, Support for Orphans in Njoro, Kenya (with NY Ave Presbyterian Church in DC), Support for School Children in Cuba (books and other needs in conjunction with our trip to Cuba in February). Haven't been to an alternative fair before? It's simple! Come to the Fellowship Hall on December 8, visit the display tables, talk to representatives about the organizations you want to support, then purchase your gifts. Cards will be available to give to family and friends that explain a donation has been made in their name. Questions may be directed to any member of the Mission and Witness Committee.

ELDERS

2014

Chris Folk
Randy Jackson
Steve Potter
Doug Sweeney

2015

Trish Fraker
Frank Gasperini
Tom Gurney
Keith Markel

2016

Todd Joyce
Linda Rawlett
Wynne Rodgers
Cameron Spivey

DEACONS

Glenna Bingham
Tom Chase
Babe McGuire
Nancy Vanzandt

Kristin Moats
Florence O'Hey
Sharon Schmidt
Dennis Welsh

Rebecca Caprio
Joan Elliott
Sofia Spivey

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor
Administrator
Prayer Chain
Business Manager
Nursery

Deborah Parsons revdeb@lpcva.org
Cindy Hollister office@lpcva.org
Peggy Moats prayer@lpcva.org
Julie Koochagian bookkeeper@lpcva.org
Bonnie Wiedenmeyer, Patricia Medina

Advent Practice of Daily Prayer

December 1—December 7

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord of Creation, every morning you renew the earth with light.
I praise for you the morning light, and I rejoice in the life you
have given me.

Let me be a friend to those who do not know your love.

Let me offer hope to those who do not trust your goodness.

Let me embody graciousness to those who do not understand
your peace.

Help me to be a blessing to all I encounter—to bear witness to
your goodness through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, the day is done and my labors must end.

I trust to your care all that I have done
and all that I have left undone,
for you alone are my strength.

Give me peaceful rest
that I may raise to faithful service,
with Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.