

Looking Toward Bethlehem

Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2013



3rd 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

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.

PIANO SOLO

Still, Still, Still
Alana Nanz, piano

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH —THE CANDLE OF PEACE

The Moats Family (8:30)

The Weikel Family (11:00)

RESPONSE #137

He Came Down

He came down that we may have love (light, peace);

He came down that we may have love (light, peace);

He came down that we may have love (light, peace);

Hallelujah forevermore.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 25:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are
of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf

**unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the
speechless sing for joy.**

*HYMN #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Holy God, 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 we fail to
seek your guidance for tomorrow. Living not out of your forgiveness, we are
hard on ourselves and judgmental of others.**

We pray for your forgiveness, asking you to prepare us for a new coming of your Son into our lives, our church, our world. We pray that you announce your presence to us and that you will call us to love and serve you. We pray that we will say yes. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(silence is kept)

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

***RESPONSE #583**

Glory to God

GLORIA (Taize)

(unison, then round 2 times)

**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)

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-28

pew bible p. 56

MUSIC

Let It Be

The Beatles

SERMON

“Mary Looks Toward Bethlehem”

Rev. Deborah Dodson Parsons

***HYMN #100**

Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney

(verses 1-2: solo; verses 3-4 congregation)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

***HYMN #122**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

In our unworthiness, O God, may we yet bring worthy gifts to honor the Messiah. We give ourselves as your servant, for no gift is complete without personal commitment. Thank you, God, for expecting great things of us. Our spirits rejoice in the coming of our Savior. Amen.

***HYMN #110**

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LEESBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Phone: 703-777-4163
www.LeesburgPresbyterian.org
Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday: 9-3; Friday: 9-2

Looking Toward Bethlehem
2013 Advent/Christmas Celebration at LPC

December 15: *Third Sunday of Advent*

Mary Looks Toward Bethlehem

Adult Studies Class: *The New Hymnal 101* Debbie Parsons

Church Christmas Dinner and All Church Christmas Pageant

5:00 First Seating

6:00 *The All Church Christmas Pageant!*

7:00 Second Seating

December 22: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

The Angels & Shepherds Look Toward Bethlehem

No Church School

December 24: *Christmas Eve*

God Looks Toward Bethlehem

5:00 pm Family Candlelight Service

7:00 pm Candlelight Service

11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion

December 30

One Service at 11:00 a.m., No Church School

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

ASSISTING: 8:30 a.m.
Liturgists: Sally Nathan
Ushers: Kathy and Brad Brown
Acolytes:

11:00 a.m.
Cameron Spivey
Florence O'Hey and Lynn Colavita
Emma Koochagian and Cara Martino

Sunday, December 15, 2013
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK

Sun.	December 15	5:00 p.m.	Annual Christmas Dinner (1st Seating)
		6:15 p.m.	The Pageant of the Nativity
		7:00 p.m.	Annual Christmas Dinner (2nd Seating)
Mon.	December 16	11:00 a.m.	Monday Morning Stitchers
		7:00 p.m.	Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
Tues.	December 17	7:30 p.m.	Session
Wed.	December 18	7:00 p.m.	Choir

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: Kim Vigil, Harry Brown, Barbara Drumm, Jane Wallace, Hal and Mary Lib Glovier. Our prayers are constant for the women and men of the Armed Forces and their families.

Acoustic Sunday Worship Once a month, our worship music is led by Eric Nanz, a graduate of James Madison University and instructor of guitar at Catoctin School of Music. Alana Nanz, a piano performance graduate from Elon University, is the piano accompanist. Eric and Debbie Parsons seek to plan a service that includes all genres of music - European traditional, American gospel and African-American spirituals, and the best of contemporary Christian music, both American and world music.

Loudoun Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication Please join Loudoun Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, December 21st in celebrating the dedication of a newly rehabilitated home supported by Leesburg Presbyterian. The ceremony will be held at 10:00 am at 22251 Bernard Lane in Middleburg. Our partner family has worked very hard to become a Habitat homeowner, and all are welcome to join in the celebration. A reception at the home will follow the dedication ceremony.

Christmas Joy Offering December 22, 2013. On Sunday, December, 22nd, the Christmas Joy Offering will be received. This is the fourth and last of the PC(USA) offerings and is divided equally between two recipient groups. The first half goes to the ASSISTANCE Program of the Board of Pensions. This program helps Church workers and their families in time of financial difficulty. The second half adds support to Presbyterian- related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please take a moment to read the inserts in the bulletins.

Our next mission opportunity for **Grace to Go** will be Sunday, January 5 at Deli South from 1:30-3:30. If you would like to join us as we prepare meals for distribution in our community, you can sign the bulletin board in the church hallway or email fraker1@verizon.net.

Loaves and Fishes Offering for 2013 Well, what a great way to share food with those who experience hunger daily. This year from January thru December, Leesburg Presbyterian Church sent 1951 pounds of food to Interfaith Relief. Let me say that again, 1,951 lbs. It was almost a ton!! Awesome! We will begin the next Loaves and Fishes on Sunday, January 5th 2014. As Jesus shared bread with us, let us do the same with others. Thanks to all of you, Loaves and Fishes was quite a success.

Believing and Belonging Friends, visitors and new members are invited to lunch and conversation about membership in Leesburg Presbyterian Church on Sunday, January 12 after 11:00 worship. We'll discuss our congregation, your interest in church membership, questions about the church, its Presbyterian heritage, and what becoming a member means. The Session will meet with any who are ready to join and receive them into church membership.

Overflowing Generosity 2014 Stewardship Campaign Update

Thank you to all who have pledged for 2014! If you have not yet made your financial pledge for the 2014 church year and plan to do so, please submit your pledge right away. The Finance & Stewardship Committee is completing the proposed budget for 2014, and it will be submitted to the Session for final approval this Tuesday. Before we can do this, however, we would like a realistic assessment of all sources of income, especially pledges.

Pledge cards are still available in the pews or the church office. You may place your pledge in the offering plate on Sunday, or mail it to the church office marked “bookkeeper.”

Thank you for your generous contributions to the ministry of Leesburg Presbyterian Church; we appreciate your thoughtful participation in reaching our goal for 2014!

English as a Second Language Would you like to assist people from other countries learn to speak and write English? The ESL program at Leesburg United Methodist Church is supported by more than 35 volunteers from LUMC, LPC and the Leesburg or Loudoun County communities. The instructional program is delivered in fall and spring sessions that are 10 weeks long. Classes during each session are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm. Spring classes run from January 28 to April 3rd. If you would you like to assist people from other countries learn to speak and write English, please contact Leesburg United Methodist Church 703-777-2056, Wayne Reynolds 703-777-4793, or Kristyn Camacho 571-436-6341. No prior teaching experience is needed and training is available.

Advent Practice of Daily Prayer

December 15—December 21

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy One, I want to see you today in this world with my own eyes.
Even though your greatness is unsearchable,
today I want to meditate on your wondrous works all around me.
Give me the eyes of faith through which to see.
Renew me, that I may praise you with a new song. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, thank you for guiding my steps on your path today.
Where my feet may have slipped, forgive me.
You have wondrously shown me your steadfast love through the course
of this day.
Now let me fall asleep in the shadow of your wings,
for I have seen today that you are my redeemer, the living God. Amen.

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
Cindy Hollister
Peggy Moats
Julie Koochagian
Bonnie Wiedenmeyer, Patricia Medina

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