



# Looking Toward Bethlehem

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 22, 2013

4th 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*

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PRELUDE

*Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mild*

arr. Robert Lau

**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 JOY**

Sharon and Stu Brown (8:30)

Christian and Mandy Kopp (11:00)

**RESPONSE #137**

**He Came Down**

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

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

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

**Hallelujah forevermore.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Isaiah 25:1-10

We come in the midst of darkness and in the bright light of day.

**We come to rejoice and give thanks!**

We come in hope and wonder, in mystery and confusion.

**We come to rejoice and give thanks!**

We come in silent anticipation, waiting, and watching for Emmanuel!

**We come to rejoice and give thanks!**

We come with as many reasons as there are people.

**We come to rejoice and give thanks!**

**\*HYMN #113**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

**Ever Blessed God, who in Jesus came to us in great humility, we confess we are slow to live for you. We know Christ to be our Truth, yet we so easily turn aside to what is false and wrong. We know you have shown in him the way we are to walk, yet we stumble. And we are aware of your promise of life abundant, yet we are impoverished by our poor decisions. Re-create in us the will to walk the Way of Emmanuel, your Son, and our Savior.**

*(silence is kept)*

**Amen**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

**\*RESPONSE #134** (*verses 1&3*)

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

## **\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN** (*11:00*)

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 2:8-20

pew bible p. 58

**ANTHEM**

*Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God*

Handel

**SERMON**

“Looking Toward Bethlehem: The Angels and the Shepherds”

Rev. Deborah Dodson Parsons

**\*HYMN #147**

*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

## **PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

### **THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

**DOXOLOGY #143** (*verse 4*)

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**LEESBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Phone: 703-777-4163**

**www.LeesburgPresbyterian.org**

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

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**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Our best we give to you, loving God, for you have given your best to us in the mystery of the incarnation. May our offerings proclaim Jesus in ways that will be received in joy. Thank you for all the ways you have provided for us. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #136**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

**GO TELL IT**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

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

**ASSISTING: 8:30 a.m.**

**Liturgists: Tom Gurney**

**Ushers: Babe and Kevin McGuire**

**Acolytes:**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Keith Markel**

**Nancy Vanzandt and David Parsons**

**Sara Koochagian and Forrest Rhodes**

**Sunday, December 22, 2013**  
**OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK**

**Tues. December 24**    **5:00 p.m.**    **Family Candlelight Worship**  
                                 **7:00 p.m.**    **Candlelight Worship**  
                                 **11:00 p.m.**    **Candlelight Worship with Communion**

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

**Christmas Joy Offering TODAY** 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. There is a special envelope in your bulletin for this offering.

**Holiday Office Hours** The LPC office will be on a reduced schedule during the holidays in order to allow the staff to enjoy time with their families.

Tuesday, December 24, 9 am - 12 pm

Wednesday, December 25, closed

Thursday, December 26, closed

Friday, December 27, 9 am - 12 pm

Wednesday, January 1, closed

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

## Star Stories?

Last January on Epiphany Sunday, those in worship received a star with a particular word on it. I challenged you to be open to how God would be present to you in the word that you received. It could have been a word you needed to hear and it made sense when you received this particular word star. Or it could have been a word that you had no idea how it could illuminate anything about your life.



I'm looking for at least 3 persons who would be willing to share their "star stories" with the congregation during worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Think about it, pray about it, and let me know.

Debbie

# Advent Practice of Daily Prayer

December 22—December 28

## *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.

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### 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

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### 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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