



THIS WEEK

- December 31 Lauri Piiparinen
- December 31 Peter Van Eenenaam
- December 31 Sarah Fluno Thomas
- January 2 Ralph Green
- January 3 Eric Green
- January 5 John Jeffries
- January 5 Harrison Mangione
- January 6 Marcia Gray Bulger



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Arlene Wilson, Shane McWayne, Gerda Barbour, and for the sick and those who need God's comfort.

Prayer Help Available. Please call the church office at 782-1750 if you have a prayer request. Your confidential prayer request will be put on the First Pres. Prayer Chain. Only those requesting public prayers are included for prayers in our church bulletin.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2017

10:00 a.m.

This service is being broadcast over radio station WATN 1240

* Indicates that those who are able may stand.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

- Carol of the Bells*
- Come, All Ye Shepherds*
- Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn*

- Carl Bingle, FPC Organist
- Ukranian Carol, arr. Fedak
- Czech Carol, arr. Fedak
- Yorkshire Carol, arr. Rasley

GREETING

Peace be with you.
And also with you

PRELUDE

A Christmas Pastoral Johann Mattheson (1681-1764)
 A contemporary of J. S. Bach, Mattheson composes a contrapuntal portrayal of Bethlehem at Jesus' birth - a shepherd's flute; then Mary humming a lullaby to her baby; and Joseph's low, reassuring voice - all sounding separately and then together. This is punctuated by joyous exultations from shepherds and angels watching over the holy family.
 Carl Bingle, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 148:1-6, 14)

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
People: praise him in the heights.
 Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
 Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.
 Let him praise the name of the Lord;
for he commanded, and they were created.
 He made them stand fast forever and ever;
He gave them a law which shall not pass away.
 He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants.
The children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

***HYMN #2**

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

GROSSER GOTT

INVITATION TO REPENTANT PRAYERS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we gather in the afterglow of Christmas and on the last Sunday of the year. We want to praise you for your faithfulness at Christmas that what you promised came to pass. That a child was born, a son given, and his name is Emmanuel, God with us. Forgive us if over this Christmas season we have lost the spirit of Christmas. Forgive us if by what we have said or done we have failed to live as our heavenly Father calls us to live. Help us take Christ with us into the year that lies ahead and to live for your praise and glory. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND FORGIVENESS

We gather this week after being hurt... We gather this week after hurting others, but Christ is there with outstretched arms that offer grace, love, and forgiveness. Friends, know that it is in Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW - Hymnal #166

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

LITURGIST WELCOME

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (Old Testament, page 692 in pew Bibles)

ANTHEM

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice Jonathan Willcocks
Chancel Choir; Sara Gleason, director; Phyllis Elmer, piano; Carl Bingle, organ

CHILDREEN'S TIME

Rev. Casey Carbone
(Today there is no Sunday School. Children may return to their seats to worship with their families.
Sunday School will resume next Sunday after the Children's Time)

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7 (New Testament, page 189 in pew Bibles)

SERMON

"A Christmas Miracle"
Rev. Casey Carbone

*HYMN #314

What Wondrous Love Is This WONDROUS LOVE

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY SOLO

Sweet Little Jesus Boy Robert MacGimsey (1934)
Nancy Boynton, soloist

*DOXOLOGY ~ HYMNAL #815

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.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

*HYMN (see insert)

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace (2 times)

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Glory to God on High George Blake
The musical image is the host of angels sweeping above the stable, with a peaceful pastoral intermezzo.
Carl Bingle, organ