



### THIS WEEK

December 28 Blanche Miles  
 December 28 Ruthann Reed  
 December 29 Anne Willaman  
 December 30 Bradford White  
 December 30 Peter Pike



*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.

## Just a Little Donkey

Just a little donkey,  
 But on my back bore  
 The one and only savior  
 The world was waiting for.

Just a little donkey,  
 But I was strong and proud -  
 I gladly carried Mary  
 Through the chaos of the crowd.

I brought her to a stable  
 Where she made a tiny bed..  
 A place for Baby Jesus  
 To lay His little head.

I pray the world remembers  
 That special Christmas night  
 When just a little donkey  
 Carried Heaven's precious light.

~ Rita S. Beer

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 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

*Procession for Christmas*  
 Carl Bingle, organ

Roger C. Wilson

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 100:1-5)

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord,  
 all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
 tell of his salvation from day to day.

**People: Declare his glory among the nations,  
 His marvelous works among all the peoples.**

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
 He is to be revered above all gods. For all the gods of  
 the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

**Honor and majesty are before him;  
 Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the people's, ascribe to  
 the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory  
 due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

**Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him,  
 All the earth.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN #277**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

**INVITATION TO REPENTANT PRAYERS**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**God of Joy, we come to celebrate again the arrival of Love Incarnate here in our very midst. Your glorious arrival is enough to cause the forests to sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. Your gift of Love is big enough for the whole world, yet we still find ourselves resentful that your love extends to those whom we deem to be unworthy. Grant us a spirit of Christmas peace, so that we may live lives of hope, love, and joy that you give freely to all people. 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**

Matthew 1:18-25 (New Testament, page 1 in pew Bibles)

**FIRST REFLECTION**

“Joseph Knew”

Rev. Casey Carbone

**ANTHEM**

*Once in Royal David's City*

David Willcocks

Chancel Choir; Sara Gleason, director; Phyllis Elmer, piano; Carl Bingle, organ

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Rev. Casey Carbone ~ “Matthew's Begot” by Andrew Peterson

(Today there is no Sunday School. Children may return to their seats to worship with their families..)

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Luke 1:46-55 (New Testament, page 57 in pew Bibles)

**SECOND REFLECTION**

“Mary Knew”

Zoe Garry

**\*HYMN #265**

*The First Noel*

THE FIRST NOEL

**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**

*Mary, Did You Know?*

Lowry & Greene

David Elmer, soloist; Phyllis Elmer, piano; Carl Bingle, organ

**\*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 - Congregation's Choice**

**\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**THE POSTLUDE**

*Quand Jésus est né à Noël*

Carl Bingle, organ

Claude Balbastre