

The flowers that enhance our worship service are given in loving memory of the deceased members of the Wiseman family by Paige and Frank Wiseman.

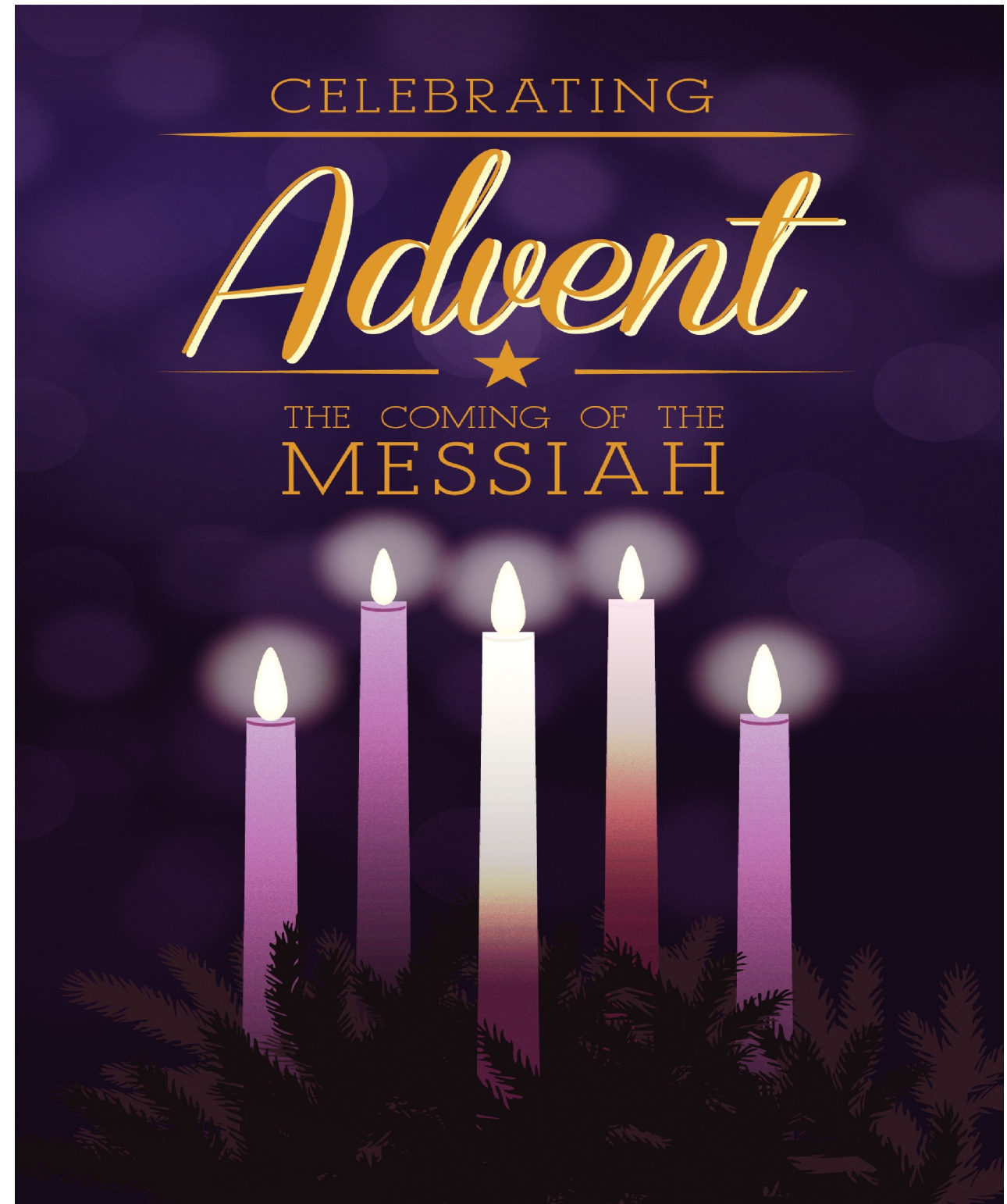
CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: We will be sending out an Advent Devotional each week via email. This devotional, "Those Who Dream" includes art, reflections and prompts for a season of dreaming about "the hopes and dreams of all the world" that is heralded by the birth of Christ. If you do not have access to email, please request a hard copy from the church office. We will be printing them only as requested, so please give Vickie some lead time for your request.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: Beginning Wednesday December 2nd and ending December 23rd we will join together at 6:30 p.m. for a Bible Study in the Overbey Fellowship Hall. Using Adam Hamilton's guide, we will explore Christmas through the eyes of Joseph and the valuable lessons for our lives. If you are interested in joining for this study please contact Vickie in the Church Office. *We will operate under our Covid-19 safety guidelines: physical distancing, wearing a mask, asking folks that are symptomatic to not attend.*

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: We have experienced unprecedented loss this year. Family and friends have succumbed to death in this pandemic, millions have lost economic security through loss of jobs, some have lost businesses they built over a lifetime. Most of us have lost our beloved rhythms of life that felt familiar and gave our lives the richness of gatherings and adventure. And we can name losses related to hatred and violence. As we proclaim love, joy, peace, and love during Advent, we will come together on the Longest Night of the Year (Dec. 21 at 5:30 p.m.) to speak of our loss and to light luminaries which remind us of the light of Christ that shines even when all around us is pain and loss.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Each year we return to the story of Jesus' birth as it is told in the Gospel of Luke. This account is the narrative we need to hear again and again. While the presentation may be adjusted to accommodate the restrictions of living in a pandemic, our time honored tradition of gathering will happen at 7:30 p.m. The evening will include singing Silent Night and lighting our candles, but we will be doing this segment of worship outside—a visible reminder that we are called to take our light out into the world.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—DANVILLE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Participants: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart, Heather Perryman, Jackson Weller, Brenna Takata, Ray Beale and Kathy Dolianitis

Call to Worship

Prelude *"I Wonder as I Wander"* arr. Charlotte L Garrett,
Recorder

Crossing the Threshold and Lighting of the Advent Candle

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of the depths of love
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we aren't sure that
goodwill among us can be found,
ignite the flame of love within us,
**People: ... that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

I believe in love, I believe in love,
even when, even when I don't feel it.

A Time for Reflection

God of compassion and mercy, you sent us your Son as the savior of the world, and told us to love one another as much as you loved us. Yet, we struggle to love each other. We have a hard time loving those who are not like us, who disagree with us, or who ask us to face the truths about ourselves. You told us to love one another, because love is from God. And we often do not love those we think are dirty, hungry, lost, or undesirable. It is written that perfect love casts out fear, and yet we are afraid. Afraid for our safety, our wallets, and how others perceive us. Forgive us, God, and show us how to love thy way you command us to love. Release us from our judgment and our fear. Open our hearts so that they might receive your perfect love for us, and offer it to the world.

Children's Time to Shine

Kathy Dolianitis

Doxology

Believe, with a hopeful heart!
Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”
let the poor say, “I am rich
because of what our God has done for us.”
Believe!**

Prayers in the Stillness

O take me to that secret place
where lost in wonder and in awe,
the moment comes and I rejoice
to be and be with God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

Sung Coda: Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive,
to receive.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:1-14

Anthem

"How Many Noels?" by Vicki Tucker,
Courtney and Herb Frombach

Sermon

***"I Believe in Love: Daring Right Relationship"* Matthew 1:1-25**

Carol of Resistance

"Love Has Come" GTG#110

Benediction

Handbell Benediction

Postlude

"What Child Is This?" arr. Mark Hayes

Sending

We will receive our Christmas Joy Offering today. The Christmas Joy offering supports the PC USA assistance program of the Board of Pensions. It supports current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks to this Support families can receive financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. Please consider giving to this cause this season.

Love Has Come

Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother.
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come, He never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

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