

**Carmel Presbyterian Church  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Lighting the Advent Candle of Love  
December 18, 2022  
10:00 AM**



*A Week of Love begins...*

**Order of Worship**

*We enter this church not as strangers, but as children of God.*

*\* Please stand, as able.*

*Congregation voices **Bold** responses.*

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

*We gather as a community of faith to meet God in new ways and reflect on the hope and promise of God's gift to us through Jesus Christ.*

**Welcome and Greetings –**

**Prelude**

**"People, Look East"**

**Dale Wood**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

**Jed and Heather Smith and Liam**

**Introduction (Spoken responsively.)**

As we gather around the advent wreath today, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and of open hearts when we sing songs of joy.

**Christmas is a time of worship – the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder.**

Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all humankind.

**Scripture**

Listen for the Word of God from 1 John, Chapter 4, verses 9-11:

*This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God's Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins. Dear Friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other.*

**Lighting the Candle of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**

We light these candles to proclaim the coming of the light of God into our darkness. With the coming of this light, there is *hope*.

**With the coming of this light, there is *peace*.**

With the coming of this light, there is *joy*.

**With the coming of this light, there is *love*.**

Such great love helps us to love both God and one another.

***Advent Prayer (In unison.)***

**O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person—babies and children, older people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in this Advent Season, and give us love in our hearts for all persons. Amen.**

**\* *Call to Worship (Spoken responsively) –***

This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

**Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.**

The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presence, but for the awareness of God’s loving gift to us--the gift of the Christ child.

**Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.**

Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God’s eternal love.

**Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift. Amen.**

**\* *Hymn 12***

***“People, Look East”***

***Besançon***

***Call to Confession (Seated) –***

***Prayer of Confession (In unison) –***

**God-with-us, we confess that we have not embraced your love. You have searched for us, and yet we hide from you. You have lavished us with blessing, and yet we treasure earthly things. Forgive us, loving God. Shine on us with grace and glory and reveal to us your promise: the good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord...**

*(A moment of silence for personal reflection & confession...)*

Amen. Amen.

***Choral Response***

***Kyrie***

***arr. David N. Johnson***

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

***Assurance of Pardon (Read responsively.) –***

Hear the Good News! God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**By Christ’s grace, we have become children of God and heirs to the hope of eternal life.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

**\* *Gloria Patri (Hymn 579)***

***“Glory Be to the Father”***

***Henry W. Greatorex***

**\* Passing of the Peace (Spoken responsively) –**

Since God loved us so much, we are free to love one another.

**Let us love one another since love comes from God.**

With the hope of those who are forgiven, and with a commitment to walk in the way of peace, let us pass the peace of Christ to our neighbors.

**Peace be with you!**

*(Greet one another sharing God's peace now and throughout the week.)*

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

*We hear the stories of our faith in scripture, song, prayer, and sermon.*

**Children's Message –**

*(Following the Children's message, children in third grade and below are invited to depart for Children's Worship downstairs in Carmel Hall.)*

**Unison Prayer for Illumination (In unison) –**

**Eternal Light: shine in our hearts and illumine our minds, that we may perceive your truth and behold your beauty. As we hear the ancient story, enlighten our hearts with a new song, that we may declare your glory and proclaim your good news of great joy. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading —**

*The first reading from the lectionary is Isaiah, chapter 7, verses 10-16; p. 598. The young woman will bear a child and name him Immanuel. Listen now for the Word of God to you!*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign from the Lord your God. Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven."

But Ahaz said, "I won't ask; I won't test the Lord."

Then Isaiah said, "Listen, house of David! Isn't it enough for you to be tiresome for people that you are also tiresome before my God? Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel. He will eat butter and honey, and learn to reject evil and choose good. Before the boy learns to reject evil and choose good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**New Testament Reading –**

*The second reading from the lectionary is Romans, chapter 1, verses 1-7; p. 142. Paul greets the saints in Rome; Jesus is the promised Son of God. Listen now for the word of God to you!*

From Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for God's good news. God promised this good news about his Son ahead of time through his prophets in the holy scriptures. His Son was descended from David. He was publicly identified as God's Son with power through his resurrection from the dead, which was based on the Spirit of holiness. This Son is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received God's grace and our appointment to be apostles. This was to bring all Gentiles to

faithful obedience for his name's sake. You who are called by Jesus Christ are also included among these Gentiles.

To those in Rome who are dearly loved by God and called to be God's people.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

***Thanks be to God.***

***New Testament Gospel Reading –***

*The gospel reading is Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-7; p. 54. The baby Jesus is laid in a manger because the Innkeeper had no place for them in the Inn. Listen now for the Word of God to you!*

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

***Thanks be to God.***

***Sermon Series: Visiting Bethlehem***

***"Innkeeper"***

***Pastor Peter***

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

*Inspired by the promise of God's Word, let us give our thanks and praise – so we may continue God's work as we move into God's week.*

***\* Hymn 55***

***"That Boy-Child of Mary"***

***Blantyre***

***Sharing Joys and Concerns***

***Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and The Lord's Prayer (Using 'debts' & 'debtors')***

***Invitation to the Offering –***

*(Our hearts are open, and our ministries are continuing seven days a week. Your contribution or pledge payment sustains our presence as the church in the local and global community. Please place your offering on the offering plate at the usher's invitation, give it online, or mail your offering envelope to the church office.)*

***Offertory***

***O Come, O Come, Immanuel  
Sanctuary Choir***

***Natalie Sleeth  
arr. Jane Marshall***

O come, O come, Immanuel, Come now to earth and with thy people dwell,  
The world awaits from heaven a holy sign, O come and show to us the light divine.

O come, O come, Immanuel, As age to age the prophets did foretell;  
Redeemer, come to save us one and all, Be born again in Bethlehem's manger stall.

For thy coming we prepare, Wisdom from on high,  
Gracious Spirit, Lord most fair: now to us draw nigh.

O come, O come, Immanuel, And free thy children, Israel,  
Be now our hope, our comfort from above, and bless us all with everlasting love.  
*(Text: Natalie Sleeth)*

**\* Doxology 592      “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”      Old Hundredth**  
*(Ushers will bring the Offering Plate forward, returning it to the rear of the Sanctuary.)*

**\* Prayer of Dedication –**

**Giver of all good gifts: we thank you for your blessings in our lives—big and small, known and unknown. As you have come to be with us in Jesus, may the gifts that we give today witness to your love, always being born into the world. Move through our lives and work through our bodies, that we may give you glory and show forth the wonder of your love. Amen.**

**WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD**

*Renewed and refreshed by our experience with God and God’s congregation, we go into the world to share God’s love.*

**\* Hymn 25      “Away in a Manger”      Mueller**

**\* Benediction and Charge –**

Look, a young woman is with child and shall bear a son. He shall be called Immanuel.

**We go forth with anticipation and longing.**

Share the good news—Emmanuel—God with us, is coming.

**We go with joy and hope, trusting in the promises of God.**

**Chimes – (You may sit in silent, reflective prayer as the worship leaders recess.)**

**Postlude      “People, Look East”      arr. Robert J. Powell**

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**Announcements**

**Guests: You Are Welcome Here**

**WE CORDIALLY WELCOME THOSE WHO ARE VISITING TODAY.** We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission, and programs; we are happy to share our ministry with you. We’d like to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to a person nearby and be sure to join us downstairs in Carmel Hall for refreshments and conversation after worship! We hope your worship experience is meaningful and you will gather with us again soon. Should you wish for Hearing Devices and/or Large Print Bibles & Hymnals, they are available from an usher. Sign our guest book at the sanctuary entrance (or share your email/contact information in the offering plate for a weekly email of future worship and activities). We invite you to speak with the Pastor if you are interested in membership. Restrooms are located down the long hallway just past the Church Office in the Education Building.

**CARMEL IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE FOR THE YOUNG MEMBERS** of our congregation by offering **Nursery Care** and **Children’s Worship (Grades K-3)** during the Sunday 10:00 am worship service. We request that if you desire

**nursery care** for your child during Sunday worship, please call the **Church Office by Friday noon**, so that the nursery is staffed. **Children's Worship** does not require reserving ahead. Children leave the Sanctuary for Carmel Hall after the **Children's Message**. We welcome our young families, either in person or in virtual worship. Any questions may be addressed to Janet Simon, Christian Education Committee chair; or Melissa MacFarland, Children's Worship leader.

**THIS MORNING, THE FESTIVE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY** witness to the glory of God and God's creation and to Christ's gift of redemption as well as in loving memory as reflected on the bulletin insert.

**A MOMENT OF REFLECTION** – As we continue in the Advent Season, anticipating Christmas Day next Sunday, reflect on these words from Richard Rohr: *"The only thing that Jesus excluded was exclusion itself."*

**TODAY WE DEDICATE THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** – The **Christmas Joy Offering** is a special offering Carmel takes each year to support young people of color to further their college education and to support older pastoral servants who encounter unusual financial difficulties. Be sure to include your 2022 envelope number. Special envelopes and pew envelopes are available.

**A PAUSE IN CHILDREN'S WORSHIP FOR THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS** – There will be **NO** Children's Worship on **Christmas Day** (12/25/22) or on **New Year's Day** (1/1/2023)! And, we are now using the **Children's Worship Room** on the left side in the back as you enter the Chapel instead of Carmel Hall. Thank you! There will be Children's Worship this Sunday and it will resume **after** New Year's Day. Children are invited to sit with families during this time.

**CELEBRATION FOR PASTOR PETER TODAY IN CARMEL HALL** – It is hard to believe that Rev. Peter Sulyok's call as **Transitional Pastor** here at Carmel is nearly complete. Join us following worship for a very special **Farewell Reception for Pastor Peter** with light refreshments in Carmel Hall.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO CARMEL'S CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES** – On **Christmas Eve** Carmel will hold two services. The first will be the **Christmas Eve Family Service at 4:30 pm** where Carmel children in costume will reenact the Scripture passages of the **Nativity Story** and the **Junior Choir** will sing. The second will be a **Christmas Eve Communion Service at 9:00 pm**. A special **Musical Prelude** will start at **8:30 pm**: **Mindy Cutcher**, principal harpist for the Philadelphia Ballet Orchestra, will play with flutist **Michele Kelly**. Michele teaches at Penn and is the flutist with Relâche. **Carmel's Festival Choir** will sing during the **Traditional Candlelight Communion Service for Christmas Eve**. With **Christmas Day** falling on Sunday this year, Carmel will have a **Christmas Day Service** at 10:00 am with the Christmas story and carols with Pastor Peter preaching his last sermon at Carmel.

**JOIN CARMEL'S FESTIVAL CHOIR FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON** – A **Festival Choir** for the Christmas season is preparing for the 9:00 PM **Christmas Eve Service**. The choir comprises youth and adults from the Carmel choirs and members and friends of the congregation who enjoy singing but cannot commit to weekly rehearsals year-round. Come and sing for this special festive **Christmas season**. The remaining rehearsals will be on Thursdays, December 15 and 22 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Please tell Abby Palmisano if you are coming so a folder of music will be ready for you!

**YOUR 2022 PLEDGE AND GIVING ENVELOPES** – Be sure to pick up your Stewardship offering envelopes. A financial pledge to Carmel is an expression of your faith, investment, and commitment to our mission. Pledges provide stability to budgeting so planning is possible for the year ahead.

**CARMEL YOUTH MINISTRY (CYM) INVITES YOUTH IN GRADES 3-8!** – Carmel Youth Ministry (CYM) welcomes all kids in Grades 3-8. It meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30–7:30 in Carmel Hall. Fun, fellowship, and growing together as a group guides the group and leaders. **CYM leaders** Joyce, Katey, Melissa, and Jed look forward to seeing you.

**MUSIC NOTES FROM CARMEL’S BALCONY** – Please hold the date for a new year of church choirs. Join us in the new season of singing and ringing.

- **Children's Choir**, for anyone in Grades K-2, meets Wednesdays, from 5:00 PM -5:40 PM.
- **Junior Choir**, for anyone in Grades 3-8, meets Wednesdays, from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.
- **Youth Choir**, for anyone in Grades 9-12, meets Sundays, from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM.
- **Sanctuary Choir**, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, meets Thursdays, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.
- **Handbell Choir**, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, meets Mondays, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

For questions about any choirs, please contact **Abby Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music**.

**WONDER “WHAT’S GOING ON?” CHECK OUT CARMEL’S WEBSITE!** Explore the wealth of information at [www.presbycarmel.org](http://www.presbycarmel.org). Easily find links for the current Livestream worship, past services, and the daily lectionary, or send a prayer request or make a financial donation—and not miss the latest on the Carmel Calendar. Clicking on the upper circular church photo will always bring you back to the Home Page.

**JOIN US EACH SUNDAY IN WORSHIP; CELEBRATE COMMUNION ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH!** **Live Streaming Worship** is available on **YouTube** or via **Zoom** on the phone for those unable to attend in-person worship due to health comfort levels or travel situations. You can find our Sunday morning worship live streaming Sundays at 10:00 am with links below:

*YouTube (Carmel Presbyterian Church Glenside) at*  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJljlDvsRw>  
***Those without Internet access may phone in via the Zoom phone link:***  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409> and Meeting ID: 842 851 1409

**SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH WORSHIP – EACH SUNDAY WE HAVE** several spots you can assist: liturgist, ushers, greeters, and host for coffee hour. We are not all we can be without you sharing your gifts as a volunteer! Speak with a pastor or sign up online here:  
<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship>

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***Participants Serving the Church in Worship***

*Peter Sulyok, Transitional Senior Pastor*

*James D. Eby, Pastor Emeritus*

*John Diller, Called Pastor, beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023*

*Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music*

*Sanctuary Choir*

*David Rice, Liturgist*

*Jed and Heather Smith and Liam, Lighting the Advent Candle of Love*

*Lynne Schutt and Janet Simon, Usher/Greeters*

*Festive Christmas Flowers, Shepherd*

*Rodney Hackman & Walter Newman, Chancel Preparation and Emergency Procedure (CPEP)*

*Tom Bohlander, Jay Raulinaitis, and Dave Rice, Live-Streaming Operators*

*Ellen Krieg, Coffee Hour Host: Carmel Hall (11:00 AM)*

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***Carmel Presbyterian Church***

*100 Edge Hill Road*

*Glenside, PA 19038*

*215-887-1074*

*[www.presbycarmel.org](http://www.presbycarmel.org)*

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## COMING EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship in the Sanctuary (and Live-Streaming): 10:00 am  
Lighting the Advent Candle of Love, Sanctuary: 10:00 am  
*Christmas Joy Offering* is Dedicated, Sanctuary: 10:00 am  
Transitional Pastor Reception, Carmel Hall: 11:00 am  
Youth Choir (Grades 9-12): 11:15-11:45 am

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

Nursery School Program Practice, Sanctuary: 10:00 am

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Nursery School Program Practice, Sanctuary: 10:00 am  
Carmel Presbyterian Women, Fellowship Lounge: 7:30 pm

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Nursery School Holiday Program, Sanctuary: 10:00 am  
Nursery School Party, Carmel Hall: 10:45 am-12:00 noon  
Children's Choir (Grades K-2), Choir Room & Sanctuary: 5:00-5:40 pm  
Junior Choir (Grades 3-8), Choir Room & Sanctuary: 5:45-6:30 pm  
CYM (Carmel Youth Ministry), (Grades 3-8), Carmel Hall: 6:30-7:30 pm

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

Festival Choir and Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary: 7:30-9:00 pm

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Family Christmas Service, Sanctuary: 4:30 pm  
Special Christmas Eve Prelude Music (Harp & Flute), Sanctuary: 8:30 pm  
Christmas Eve Service with Communion, Sanctuary: 9:00 am

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

#### NATIVITY OF THE LORD/CHRISTMAS DAY

Worship in the Sanctuary (and Live-Streaming): 10:00 am  
Coffee Hour, Carmel Hall: 11:00 am