

Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live

## Worship



Sunday, December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:15 am

*+Stand as you are able*

## Gathering

### Welcome and Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

### Centering Music

#### +Call to Worship

Leader: Mary was engaged to Joseph.

**People: Before they had relations, she was found to be with child.**

Leader: Joseph planned to end it quietly.

**People: But an angel said, "Do not be afraid, for the child is from the Holy Spirit."**

Leader: Joseph did as the angel said, and took Mary as his wife.

**People: And she bore a son, and Joseph named him Jesus.**

**+Hymn** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #44

#### Call to Confession

Leader: Sometimes it is hard to see God's hand in our world. Often it is easy to lose hope and allow ourselves to turn away from God's desires in the world. But God offers us new life each day. Let us join together as a community to confess our sin, to claim and reclaim the forgiveness and hope that God gives each of us.

**Prayer of Confession** (Unison followed by silent confession.)

**O God of mercy, hear our prayers. Your spirit calls us to movement and change, but we are stubborn, hesitant, and fearful. We choose the familiar over the faithful, the comfortable over the courageous, selfishness over service, diatribe over dialogue. O God of mercy, hear our prayers. Forgive us our sins, and move us to live as people transformed.**

#### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, the good news is from everlasting to everlasting. We have a God who desires to welcome us home. Live in the good news we receive this and every day. In Jesus, we are forgiven.

**Response: We are forgiven people, living in God's grace. May we live as children of God in all that we do. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Response of Praise

O come let us adore him;  
 O come let us adore him;  
 O come let us adore him,  
 Christ the Lord.

## Passing of the Peace

Leader: As God has forgiven us to draw us back into his love, let us live as people who live in this grace, sharing the peace of Christ with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**Response: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

## Anthem

### Hearing the Word

## Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, the words of Scripture are God breathed, inspired by you and given life through the power of your Holy Spirit. By your Spirit breath you word into us, so that we become your faithful people in a world that is starving for good news. For the sake of the Living Word, Jesus. Amen.

## Scripture Reading Isaiah 63:7-9

7 I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
 the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
 because of all that the Lord has done for us  
 and the great favor to the house of Israel  
 that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
 according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

8 For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
 children who will not act deceitfully,"  
 and he became their savior

9 in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel  
 but his presence that saved them;  
 in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;  
 he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

## Hymn *What Child is This?* #53

## Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name

him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

**Sermon**    *Joseph’s Story*    Rev. Robert Wood

## Responding to the Word

### **Affirmation of Faith**    *From the Confession of 1967*

**We believe that in Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized for all. Jesus lived among his own people and shared human needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and become a brother to all kinds of sinful people. In giving himself for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. We believe that God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.**

### **Offering Prayer**

Leader: The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it,

**People: the world, and those who live in it.**

Leader: Heaven and earth are yours, O Lord,

**People: and of your own we give you.**

**Response of Praise**    *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*    #27

## **Joys and Concerns**

## **Prayers of the People**

## **Celebration of Communion**

## Taking the Word into the World

**+Hymn**    *Angels We Have Heard on High*    #23

## **+Charge and Benediction**

# COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 18, 2022

Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Carter  
865-385-5003

Choir Director:

Jie Fang Goh

Admin Assistant:

Stephanie Class

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### Scriptures for Sunday, December 25

Isaiah 62:6–12

Psalms 97

Titus 3:4–7

Luke 2:[1–7] 8–20

### In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy

Ruth Roeber

The McDermott family

Johanna Willis

The Kleier family

Jean Jennings' family

Emilee Walden

Kelly Montana

Lynda Jaeger

Kittie Dupps

Ron Carlin

Ella Grace Marksberry

### Worship Services

Join us for in person services at our new location at 710 Western Reserve Rd., Crescent Springs, KY. You can also worship with us online via Facebook Live, or by joining the conference call. Worship services begin at 11:15 am.

### Christmas Worship Services

COF will not be meeting for worship on Sunday, Dec. 25. You're welcome to worship with Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church or join the Zoom worship that will be organized by the Synod.

### January Session Meeting

The Session will meet on Thursday, Jan. 12.

### Cornerstone Meals

We'll be preparing and serving meals for Cornerstone in January. We'll cook on Monday, Jan. 16 and serve at Cornerstone on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

### Advent Giving Opportunities

As they are every year, our Advent giving opportunities are important in the life of the church, and in the lives of those in need. These include the PCUSA Christmas Joy offering, Buckhorn, the Giving Tree, and Be Concerned. Your Mission team suggests that we concentrate our giving on these known causes and non-profit organizations, with which we have had strong ties for many years. We invite you to contribute to one, two, three, or all of these causes.

They are: the Christmas Joy offering (one of the 4 "special" annual offerings to the PCUSA); Buckhorn, the children's home with locations in Kentucky and Ohio (contact Bill Lindsay and/or Jack Kleier about gift cards needed, cash, or checks.); the Giving Tree, which provided gifts to disadvantaged children in the Ludlow community (contact Jean Jennings about gift needs); and BeConcerned, a food bank, serving Covington and Kenton County. We also hope that you won't forget Nicaragua, helping our mission partner, CEPAD, to provide continuing relief to rural communities, ravaged by the hurricanes, droughts, and Covid.

Donate by sending your checks, with the selected cause(s) on the memo line to the church at P.O. Box 121038, Covington, KY 41012-1038. Or, placing donations in the offering plate. You can also give online by Control-clicking on the "Give Now" button located on the main COF webpage or Facebook page. When donating online, choose the "Other" giving category, and indicate which of the cause(s) you've selected, or all of them, in a note.

*Continued on next page.*

## **Supporting the Work of the Presbytery and the Denomination with Per Capita**

Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of us, as members of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate, and share in the work of the wider church. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Presbytery, as well as the Synod and General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better ruling elders, teaching elders and deacons, and ministers. It is how Presbyterians are helped to discern God's call in their lives. It has supported our ministries at COF through grants to CLASP and for equipment purchases for our virtual church services. Please prayerfully consider donating the \$33 per capital apportionment set by the Presbytery, for each church member.