

*The flowers today are given in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Guy T. Fowlkes and Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Kirk
by the family.*

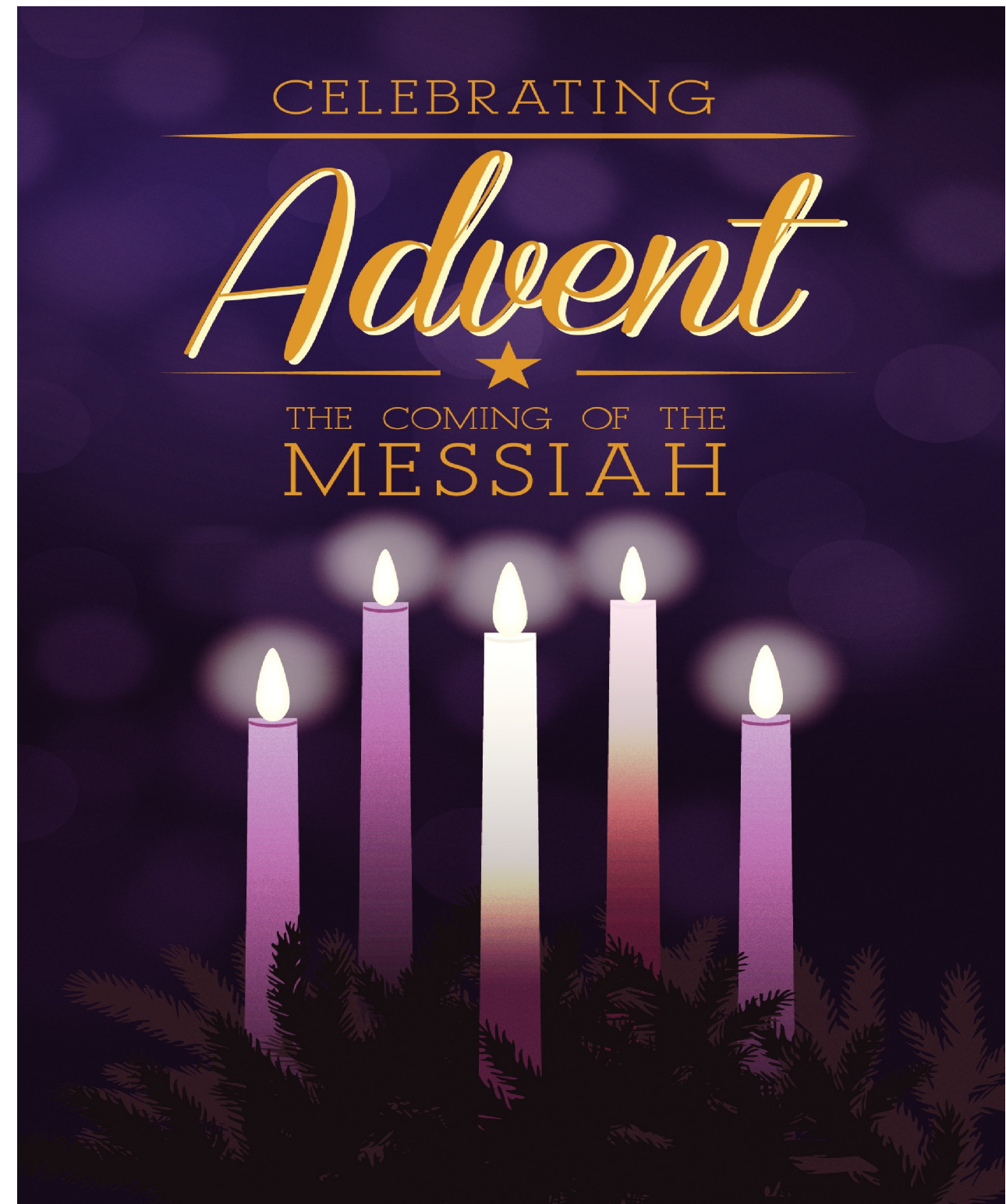
CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

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 13, 2020

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Participants: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart, Heather Perryman, Randy Brooks, David Clark, and Kent Shelton

Call to Worship

Prelude *“Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme”* by J. S. Bach

Crossing the Threshold and Lighting of the Advent Candle Ray Hayes

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of the depths of joy.

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 joy within us,

**People: ... that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

I believe God
I believe in God
Even when ... even when ...
God is silent.

A Time for Reflection

With a sky full of stars full of stars and a world full of flowers, there should be no end to our joy. And yet, instead of decorating our very being with joy, we let it slip away like loose change. Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David, we pass by remarkable beauty and love most days, unfazed. Forgive us.

Teach us the ways of children, who laugh and dance and sing as if joy is the very thing that keeps them alive. Maybe they have joy figured out. Let us keep our eyes open—wide open—to the joy of all creation.

Hymn *“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”* GTG #97

Children’s Time to Shine

Kent Shelton

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 57:14-19

Anthem *“Come, Lift a Song of Joy”* by Sonja Poorman

Sermon *“Those Who Dream ... Ode to Joy”* **Luke 1:1-4; 26-56**

Carol of Resistance *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

Benediction

Handbell Benediction

Postlude *“Ding, Dong, Merrily on High”* arr. Marilyn Ham

Sending

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.

Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.

Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?

Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.

Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.

Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?

Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.

Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.

Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.

Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heav'n's all-gracious King!"

The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

Still thru the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,

And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world:

Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing,

And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

All ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,

Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,

Look now! For glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing:

O rest beside the weary road And hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, By prophet bards foretold,

When with the ever circling years Comes round the age of gold;

When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,

And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.