



*Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church*

1760 Pine Hollow Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
Phone: 412-331-2863 Website: <https://www.kenmawrchurch.org>

**December 24, 2024**

*Declaring God's Grace & Demonstrating God's Love,  
as Directed by God's Word*

# *The Service of Worship*

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.

Let us go with the shepherds:

**Let us go to find the Savior!**

Let us go with the wise ones:

**Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!**

Let us go with the poor and the humble:

**Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.**

Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

**O come, let us worship; O come, let us adore him;**

**Christ the Lord!**

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

**Our Father and our God, creator of the universe, whose Son, Jesus Christ, came into our world, pour your Holy Spirit upon your church, that all people of our world, being led through the knowledge of your truth to worship you, may offer the gold of our minds, the frankincense of our bodies, and the myrrh of our spirits to him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever, one God, world without end. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #182

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;**

**Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

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**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of Creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the Incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us once again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, as we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #185**

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**

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**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (4:00 & 7:00)**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 2:1-20**

**1** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to their own town to register. **4** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with

Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (NIV)

## CHOIR ANTHEM

## "Baby In a Manger"

Baby, lying in a manger, cradled on a bed of straw.  
Baby, lying in a manger, Jesus, Lord of all.  
Angels on that night, robed with heaven's light,  
Sang the news in one accord.  
Come and see the baby in a manger, Christ the Lord.

Baby, lying in a manger, as the prophets had foretold.  
Baby, lying in a manger, soon the world would know.  
As the angels sing, earth receives her king.  
Peace and joy are now restored.  
Come and see the baby in a manger, Christ the Lord.

O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him.  
O come let us adore him Christ the Lord.  
Come and see the baby in a manger, Christ the Lord. Christ the Lord.

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## SERMON

## "Houdini in a Manger"

WE BELIEVE—from the Nicene Creed

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.**

OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**2025 Offering envelopes may be picked up tonight in Sharpe Hall**

OFFERTORY

\*HYMN OF FAITH #229

“The First Noel”

**The first Noel, the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.**

**Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
who hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.**

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\*CANDLE LIGHTING *(Hint: To prevent dripping, always keep lit candles upright and move unlit candles over the flame to receive the light.)*

\*HYMN OF BLESSING #186

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

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\*BENEDICTION

*Thank you for worshipping with us.*



**-WORSHIP LEADERSHIP-**

Rev. Dr. Karl McDonald, Pastor  
Mrs. Louise Schoppe, Commissioned Pastor  
Mrs. Jayne McDonald, Music Director  
Ken Mawr Choir  
Mr. Adam Kantz, Percussion/Audio  
Mr. Mitchell Fleischman, Bass  
Mr. Cameron Brown, Livestream  
Mr. Jim Heckethorn, Elder of the Month  
Mr. Dan Koller & Friends, Deacons of the Month

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** The Christmas Joy Offering is split evenly between the assistance program of the Board of Pensions and scholarship funds for Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Help us support these faithful servants and students in their hour of great need and hour of great promise. Look for the Christmas joy offering envelopes in the pews and then please give generously. Thank you.

If you would prefer to give online this evening, please use the QR Code for your convenience.





## The Poinsettias are lovingly given...

In honor of my wonderful family from Dona Adamski

In honor of Ryan, Joel, & Seth Altenhof from Michael and Michelle Altenhof

In memory of Lorand & Georgette Balazs and Gary York from Bruce, Lori, Summer, and Josh Balazs

In memory of my Mom, Shirley from Eric Boerstler

In memory of Tony Cannella & Dave Young from the Cannella Family

In memory of Patricia Ruth Chasey from Ralph Chasey

In memory of Albert & Viola Julian, Nicholas & Carole Coholic, and Nicholas & Mary Coholic from Nick and Melody Coholic

In honor of our GaGa, Cindy Pennington from Tina Ernst

In honor of our Mammy, Marlene Chioda, from Tina Ernst

In memory of my brother David Poole Jr. from Tina Ernst

In memory of Robert & Margaret Hieber Jr. from Bob and Donna Hieber

In honor of our grandchildren from Bill & Linda Hieber

In honor of our military men and women from Bill & Linda Hieber

In memory of my parents, Bill & Diane Mitchell, from James Mitchell

In memory of Steve Joseck, my husband for 50 years, from Sue Joseck

In honor of Tom & Katie from Aunt Kathy

In memory of Milt & Bonnie Kappert from the Klinger and Kappert Families

In memory of Rev. Harold Knappenberger from Elsie Knappenberger  
In honor of our Mother Lillian Pelkington from the Kuffner Family  
In memory of our Mother Mary Kuffner from the Kuffner Family  
In memory of those who we lost in Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine from Mary Lou Long  
In memory of my Grandparents, John & Audray Sapida from Audra Manke  
In memory of Thomas M. Meneskie from Peggy Meneskie  
In memory of Helen & Burt Holmes from Melanie Holmes and Charlie Popovich  
In memory of Betty & Paul Popovich from Charlie and Melanie Popovich  
In memory of Linda Barth  
In honor of Loretta Osborne from Tom and Cheryl Simchak  
In memory of Marion Simchak from Tom and Cheryl Simchak  
In honor of our grandchildren from Willy & Lari Skowron  
In memory of Jordan Skowron from Willy & Lari Skowron  
In memory of Jack Wittenmyer & Lincoln Wilber from Corie Snyder  
In memory of Ander & Ann Marie Udvarhelyi from Otto & Marlene Sommerhalter  
In memory of Clyde & Blanche Rorison from Otto & Marlene Sommerhalter  
In memory of Daryl Rorison from Otto & Marlene Sommerhalter  
In memory of Bob Tresky from Ellen Tresky  
In memory of Victoria Cersosimo & Gina Gossett from Claudia Tyler  
In memory of deceased members of the Vadas & Yanetsky Families from Barbara Vadas  
In memory of deceased members of the Vadas & Joseck Families from Mark and Pam Vadas Family

