**Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church**

**11am Worship Service**

**First Sunday in Advent December 3, 2017**

**~*We Gather~***

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements, Joys and Concerns of the Church**

Please sign the red Friendship pad in the pew and pass along to others.

**\*Greet each other**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Song of Response** #88O Come O Come Emanuel vs. 1

**Prayer for the Day**

**\*Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 75)

One: Who is our Hope?

**All: For you, O Lord, are our hope, our trust.**

One: You are our rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save us.

**All: Our mouths are filled with your praise, and with your glory all day long.**

One: Your power and your righteousness, O God, reach the high heavens. You have done great things, O God, who is like you?

**All: We will hope continually, and will praise you yet more and more and more.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**: #82 Come, Thou Expected Jesus

**~*We Confess our Sin and Receive Pardon*~**

**Call to Reconciliation –** In this season we take a few moments to push the pause button, stop our frantic hurry, to catch up with ourselves and with our God. One way we do this is through confession. Please join me in our prayer of confession.

**Prayer for Confession:** (unison) **Loving God, we offer up to you all the stuff that we do while we wait for Christmas: the parties, the gifts, the decorations, the worship services and even the Christmas cookies. Will you show us how these elements of celebration can bring glory to your Son this year? Without your help, they might just become empty lifeless traditions and rituals. We need your help to discern how we, like the angels of old, can best serve and glorify Jesus as we await not just his birthday but his promised return…***Silence is kept*

**Assurance of Pardon**

One: When we offer to Jesus our daily work, play and worship, Jesus offers us his love, grace and forgiveness.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and have life abundant.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

***~We Hear a Word from the Lord~***

**Children’s Message**

**Hymn of Meditation** #92 While We Are Waiting, Come

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Joshua 2:15-21; Psalm 130:5-8

Leader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Communion Meditation** Waiting With Hope

**Second Scripture Lesson:**  Matthew 12: 15-21

***~We Respond in Joyful Service~***

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Apostles Creed**

~***We Seal the Word in the Sacraments~***

**\*Communion Hymn:** #525 Let Us Break Bread Together

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing the Bread and Cup**

**~*We Go Forth to Serve*~**

**\*Closing Hymn:** #353 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response:** #88 Refrain **“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Postlude**

**Adam Oester, Lay Leader**

**Beverly Hughes, Organist**

**Rev. Karen Greenawalt, Pastor**

**\*You are invited to stand**

**Welcome to Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church. We are glad you are here!** If you are a first time guest, please fill out the Red Friendship pads in the pew. We invite you to prayerfully consider GPC a place to call home. If you would like to become a member please talk to Pastor Karen.

**Children are a vital part of our congregation.** Each Sunday we offer Sunday school at 9:45am downstairs, a Children’s Message in worship and Children’s Church downstairs after the Children’s Message. Child care is also available in the nursery downstairs for all those 2 years and younger.

**Coffee and Conversations- join us at** 9:45am for the study of the Gospel of Mark. We will be on Chapter 15 next week.

**Upcoming Events- Mark your Calendars!**

**Wed. Dec. 6, 13, 20 – GPC Music Team practice – 6:30pm**

**Sun. Dec. 3 – First Sunday Advent and Communion**

**Sun. Dec. 24 -Christmas Eve – One service that day at 4pm**

No 11am worship service that day.

**Sun. Dec. 31 – New Year’s Eve Worship, Communion and the Installation of new Elders at 11am**

**Rescue Mission needs Christmas Cookies and small wrapped gifts for men. Please bring items and place in bin the Sanctuary.**

**Families in need this Christmas - please write a check or give cash to GPC with *Christmas for Families* in the memo line or on the envelope.**

**To contact Pastor Karen** please call the church office 304-229-2316 or her cell 407-619-2821. The church email is gerrardstpc@gmail.com , our webpage is http://gerrardstownpc.com/ . Like us on Facebook at Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church Life

**Communion Liturgy**

**\*Communion Hymn** #525 Let Us Break Bread Together

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving with the Lord’s Prayer**

**Words of Institution**

**Passing of the Elements**

**Prayer after Communion**