

December 11th, 2011
Third Sunday of Advent



The Federated Church of Paxton

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Pastor Colleen Lawrence, Minister

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Rev. Dr. Robert Ross, Pastor Emeritus

Organist - Priscilla Andreae



Welcome to our guests!

Please take a minute to sign our guest book located at the back of the sanctuary.

Unison Song *"People, Look East" (Verse 3)*

PH, #12

Sharing of Joys, News, Concerns

Opening Prayer *(in unison)*

Isaiah 61, Psalm 126

**God of justice and love,
we enter into your presence with hopeful hearts.
Gather us in as a well-tended harvest.
Fill our hearts with joy at your promised coming.
Pour out your Spirit upon us,
that we may be people who dream of justice,
people who live in righteousness.
Flow through our hearts and our lives,
that good news and hope may break forth
into all the world. Amen.**

***Prelude** *"Noel for Flutes"*

D'aukin

***BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

*"Light the Advent candle, three: Think of heav'nly harmony
Angels singing 'Peace on Earth', At the blessed Savior's birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night:
Candle, candle, burning bright, Fill our hearts with Christmas light."*

*** Call to Worship** *(responsively)*

Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5

One: Come home with shouts of joy, for Christ's birth is ever near!

All: We are like people living a dream, the dream of Christmas day.

One: Carry the promises of God, for Christ's birth brings new hope.

**All: Our mouths are filled with laughter,
as we rejoice in this glorious news.**

One: Come home with thankful hearts,
for Christ's presence is all around.

All: We rejoice in glorious hope, for love has called us here!

***Hymn** *"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

PH, #466

*All who are able, PLEASE STAND

Youth Moment

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Isaiah 61, Psalm 126

**Light of life, shine into the darkest places of our lives,
that we may confess our sins and move into the light of your love.
Flow through us, that your Spirit may rule our hearts
and transform our actions into justice and righteousness.
Forgive us when we cause weeping and sorrow,
rather than joy and hope.
Transform us to be people of your dream,
children of Christ's promise,
and disciples of hope for all the world to see. Amen.**

Assurance *"Amazing Grace" (Verse 1)*

PH, #280

Investment of Time, Talents & Treasures

Offertory *"Sleep Well, Dear Heavenly Boy"*

Schroeder

***Hymn** *"We Give Thee but Thine Own" (one verse)*

PH, #428

***Prayer of Dedication**

1 Thessalonians 5

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

Give thanks in all circumstances.

Let us give thanks silently for the myriad ways

God has blessed us and enabled us to be a blessing to others.

In praise and hope, we thank you, O God. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith**

***Gloria Patri**

Lectionary Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;

Anthem *"The Wondrous Story"*

Besig

***Gospel** John 1:6-8, 19-28

Message

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Response *"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"*

***Closing Hymn** *"Be Thou My Vision"*

PH, #339

***TAKING OUT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *"Sing for Joy"*

Schroeder

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, December 12th

Church Council Meeting at 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 14th

Confirmation-6pm/Youth Group-7pm/Choir Practice-7pm

Thursday, December 15th

Prayer Shawl Gathering, 6:30pm at Pastor Colleen's Home

Sunday, December 18th

Youth Christmas Program during morning Worship

Christmas Brunch to follow

January newsletter deadline

December Greeters Liturgists Ushers Elders ~ W. Niewold, Taylor, Cole

December

Birthdays
& Anniversaries

1st - Nancy Taylor

15th - Storm Smith

22nd - Ivan & Priscilla Andreae Ann.

28th - Brock Johnson

Annual Meeting

The Annual
Congregational Meeting
will be held
Sunday, January 15th.
Please make every effort to
be in attendance.

***Lord, We ask thanksgiving, comfort, healing
and faith for these friends and family members***

Marcella Woodworth - bad knees; Jeff Legener;
Brent Lawrence - surgery; Bill Cofel; John Lateer

Homebound or in Nursing Homes

Sue Moore - c/o J. Schmidt, 511 Ridge Lane, Eureka, IL 61530
Donald Rhodes

Jani Fraim - Room 219, GC Hospital & Health Center

Wanda Larson - La Canada Care Facility, Tucson, AZ

Marcella Woodworth - Prairie Village, Rantoul

Eloise Shear at Gilman Nursing Home, Gilman

For the month of December, please bring peanut butter, spaghetti & spaghetti sauce, canned stews, & cereal for the Food Pantry.

As always, all non-perishable food items are welcomed.