



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

*Draw near to God
for God is waiting for you.*

* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able
italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

Great God, we long for the simple beauty of Christmas – for all the old familiar melodies, words, and symbols that remind us of that great miracle when He who had made all things came one night as a babe, to lie in the crook of a woman’s arm. But in that longing, let us even more yearn for your renewed presence among us even as we celebrate and expect the coming of your Son.

Before such mystery we kneel, as we follow the shepherds and Wise Men to bring you the gift of our love – a love we confess has not always been as warm or sincere or real as it should have been. Now, as we enter into this Advent Season, we pray that love would find its Beloved, and from you receive the grace to make it pure again, warm and real.

Good Lord, by your mercy guide our outward actions in such ways that our inward being is formed in faith, hope, and love. May the decorations we offer engage our senses during the days of Advent and enliven our praise and worship, in the name of the child of Bethlehem, our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**HYMN #88* O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o’er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
4. O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is so easy for us, Lord, to let the anger, frustration, and fear overshadow our lives. We can't seem to escape it. We try to find some way to cover it up, but it remains. And in our anxiety, we act out our fear

in ways which are not helpful and, far too often, go against the ways you have taught us to live. We feel the pressure to give, and resentment in giving. We feel the push to be present at every upcoming event, and want to run and hide. Help us, Lord. Heal our wounded spirits. Free us again to look to you for Hope. Let us see the many ways in which you are present to us..... guiding, healing, loving, encouraging us. Forgive us for our fears and our stubbornness. Bring us again to your light, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

... the good news: **Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me.**

**GLORIA PATRI*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

HANGING THE GREENS

ADVENT WREATH

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We are a people of hope. Our hearts are full of anticipation for the coming of our beloved Christ Child. For God is to be among us and we will see a great light in the midst of our night. Let us light the Candle of Hope. (Light the first blue candle)

ADVENT PRAYER

Dear God, as we begin our Advent pilgrimage, grant us the courage to hope. Hope for your presence; Hope for your peace; Hope for your promise. Amen.

CANDLES IN WINDOWS

WREATHS ON THE DOOR

HYMN #104 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a-right? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
2. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me; your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.
3. You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

HOLLY AND EVERGREEN GARLANDS

POINSETTIA

HYMN #129 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.
3. This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

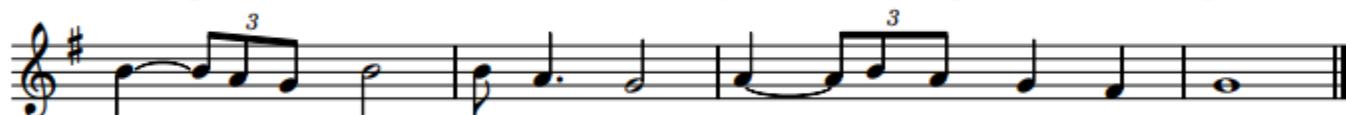
TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

HYMN #158 Born in the Night, Mary's Child



1 Born in the night, Mar-y's Child, a long way from your home;
2 Clear shin-ing light, Mar-y's Child, your face lights up our way;
3 Truth of our life, Mar-y's Child, you tell us God is good;
4 Hope of the world, Mar-y's Child, you're com - ing soon to reign;



com - ing in need, Mar-y's Child, born in a bor-rowed room.
Light of the world, Mar-y's Child, dawn on our dark-ened day.
yes, it is true, Mar-y's Child, shown on your cross of wood.
King of the earth, Mar-y's Child, walk in our streets a - gain.

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING

**DOXOLOGY*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

Because of You, Abundant God, we have blessings to offer to others. May You use our gifts to restore hope to the despairing, to feed the hungry, and to fill the empty hearts of the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**HYMN #132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: November 28, 2021

*****TODAY:**

Advent Wreath making: Following service - we invite you to join us and also those at home on Zoom to make your Advent Wreath.

*****THIS WEEK:**

Wednesday noontime lunch: Bring your lunch and join us in Fellowship Hall, December 1 at noon. All are welcomed for a midweek get together.

Thursday Night Bible Study and Fellowship: Thursday December 2 at 7pm on Zoom. Our Advent study will explore the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? Through the lens of faith we can see how Christ speaks to us through our culture and this tale. Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. Bible study is held on Zoom each Thursday at 7:00pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/127591875> or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782 using meeting ID 127 591 875.

Saturday, December 4: This is Esther Welch's 101st birthday! We are going to celebrate at 11:00 by serenading her with "Happy Birthday" from the parking lot of her building. Her address is 555 N. Broad St., Doylestown. Esther will watch and listen from her balcony. Cards will be collected and taken to her.

Poinsettias for the Christmas Season: Order forms can be found on the table as you're departing today. Or call Susan in the Church office to place your order.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR DISABLED ADULTS – For several years our congregation has helped to make Christmas a little merrier for some disabled adults living in the group homes run by Allies Inc. Once again we will extend this holiday cheer. Gift requests will be available beginning this week. Drop by the church or call the office if you would like to donate. A list of all requests will be emailed as soon as it is available and will be in next week's bulletin.

Youth Group Winter Apparel Drive: December 5th, the youth group will be holding a drive for veterans, ex-offenders, the homeless and recovering addicts through *Absolute Access Powerhouse*. This organization provides a re-entry program that helps this population obtain permanent employment. Donations of coats, gloves, hats, scarves, sweaters, blankets – anything warm – can be brought to the church on the 5th between 1-3:00 PM.

Calendar: November 28 – 10am service, followed by Advent Wreath making.

December 1 - 11am Worship and Music mtg., 12noon – Bring your own lunch.

December 2 - 7pm Bible Study on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/127591875>

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Raymond Tinari,
Dick Wright, Sally Thiessen, Rebecca Stemplewicz