



# Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

*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

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH JOEL RANEY

Doug and Vini Christie

Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:  
prayers of those who seek re - lief.  
End their dark - ness, hear their call for  
peace on earth, good will for all.

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## LITANY

*Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of living.*

**Lord of light, we thank you for the gift of life.**

*Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of relationships.*

**Lord of light, we thank you for our friends and family.**

*Advent is a time to celebrate the earth we all share.*

**Lord of light, we thank you for providing for our needs.**

*Advent is a time to celebrate eternal life.*

**Lord of light, we thank you for sending a Savior.**

## OPENING PRAYER

**God of light, we thank you for the many gifts you have given us, and we pray today that you will teach us to be truly joyful. Help us remember that you supply our needs and fill our lives with meaning. Fill our days with keen awareness of your presence, and fill our hearts with praise as we celebrate this joyful Advent season. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #133** O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. 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!

*REFRAIN:* O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

2. True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he come;  
very God, begotten, not created! *REFRAIN*

3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *REFRAIN*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *REFRAIN*

### ***CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION***

#### ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS***

**We try not to do any evil, Almighty God, but it is so hard to let go of those little things we enjoy - gossiping about the boy in the neighborhood who always gets into trouble; making light of the accomplishments of a co-worker; daydreaming about having someone else's prosperity.**

**Forgive us, Loving God. You have freely given us salvation, yet we act as if we are the ones who paid for it. Help us to rejoice always in your grace, and to give thanks in every moment for that life we receive through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

#### ***WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING***

**...Remember the good news and say it aloud: Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.**

#### ***\*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.**

#### ***SCRIPTURE LESSON*** John 1:6-8, 19-28

**\*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!

### ***CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP***

#### ***OFFERTORY***

#### ***\*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***

**Generous God, you have given us all that we have and all that we are. We thank you for the opportunity to respond to your love and generosity by sharing our gifts with others. Our hearts sing with joy as we**

work with you to bring true peace and justice to our world. As we prepare for the coming of your Son, may our lives proclaim your good news for all throughout the earth. Amen.

### ***SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS***

### ***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION 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.**

### ***CHRISTMAS MUSICAL***

Star Search

Gina Boe and Barbara Dorn

Singers: Emilie Cullerton, Missi Dell'Orefice, Martha Greenwood, Sue Hampton, Kara Holton, Nathan Holton, Samuel Holton, Terry Holton, Donna Jencks, Andrea Myers, Julia Myers, Janice Propsner, Sharon Ruth, Ellie Squillace, Ruth Squillace, Susan Thomes, and Courtney Woolslayer

Drummer: Paul Wachtendorf

Stars (in order of appearance): Charlotte Lucera (Pricilla Perseus), Mika Conti (Andie Andromeda), Ellie Squillace (Cassie Cassiopeia), Andrea Myers (Jackie Orion), Joey Foster (Carl Stargan), Braden Fullman (Neil DeSpacey Tyson), Riley Lucera (Bob), Keegan Fullman (Meteorite), Julia Myers (Angel)

### ***BENEDICTION***


### ***POSTLUDE***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, DECEMBER 17 2023**

**This week's carillon is in memory Emma K. Ashworth. Emma is the mother of Jane Lukens.**

**TODAY OUR CHRISTMAS MUSICAL** *"Star Search"* A special thanks to Director of Music Leanne Yerkes for putting today's musical together and all those who gave of their time and talent for months of rehearsals. Today's service will be followed by a festive reception in our Fellowship Hall.

**YOUTH GROUP tonight:** 6:30pm – 8pm Christmas Escape Room (at the church)

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:**  This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Our worship on the 24<sup>th</sup> will be held first at 10:00 AM when we will observe the fourth Sunday of Advent. A second service at 6:00 PM which will be a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service including lessons in carols and special music.

**BIBLE STUDY ON THURSDAY EVENINGS:** Join us as we continue to make our way through the season of Advent by exploring Scripture. Together we will study the meaning of the birth of Jesus through the sights and sounds of Advent. We will discover how our senses become signs for us pointing to the incarnation when God took human form to experience the world as we do. Please join us at 7pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/127591875>

**FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP:** The next evening fellowship will be on January 5, 5:30 – 7:30. Our Mission Project will be to assemble "Smile Bags" and Arts & Crafts projects for children in Doylestown Hospital and CHOP. We will have a special guest from "Simple Gifts Project" who will provide more details about the organization and its mission – "to make a child smile." Sign up in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** **This week we are asking for the following items:** Flour, Sugar, Baking Soda, Baking Powder and Christmas Sprinkles. Canned goods are always needed as well as stuffing mix. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.

<b><u>Calendar:</u></b>	December 17	10:00 am	Christmas Musical, followed by Fellowship
		1:00 pm	Boy Scout of America Eagle Scout presentation
		4:00 pm	Iglesia Pentecostal Asamblea De Dios Worship Service
		6:30 pm	Youth Group
	December 18	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop Meeting
	7:30 pm	Deacons Meeting on Zoom	
December 20	12:00 pm	Bring your Brown bag lunch for Fellowship.	
December 21	7:00 pm	Bible Study on Zoom	

**Elder of the month:** Courtney Woolslayer    **Deacon of the month:** Merrily Henley

**Ushers:** Gerry and Louise Stemplewicz    **Coffee Hour Host:** The Wednesday Lunch Group and several others

***In our thoughts and prayers:***

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Jim Turner, Violet Sanders,  
Mary Lou Humlhanz, David Posnett, Pat Pizza, Kara Holton



**Church Staff**  
**Susan Fall, Pastor**  
**Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music**  
**Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator**  
**Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager**

