



Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Draw near to God.

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 DUET

I'm Expecting Him

Lani Smith

Rachel Dell'Orefice, soprano Courtney Woolslayer, alto

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Martha Greenwood

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, and we lit the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world. Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

In Advent, we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the Wilderness, waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for the coming of the Joy of Ages. We wait for the day where we can join our voices with the angels to sing "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!" We wait for the day when everlasting joy will be on each of us. On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.

HYMN #92 (remain seated) While We are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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 comes;
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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS

Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING

... 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.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN #113** Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 3:7-18

SERMON Getting Direction

CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

OFFERTORY Meditation on VENI EMMANUEL Alfred V. Fedak

***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.

***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 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers Swedish Folk Song/Anne Krentz Organ, arr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

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

WELCOME MAGGIE REALLEY: who is our guest musician this week.

CAROLING FOR THOSE HOMEBOUND: Following worship on December 22nd all are invited to go caroling for some of our members who are unable to attend worship. Bring a sandwich for your lunch. There will be time to grab a quick bite before leaving. Please sign up in Fellowship if you plan to participate.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: A special candlelight service of Lessons in Carols will be held on December 24 at 6:00 PM. If you would like to be a reader, please contact Pastor Su.

OUR OLD CHURCH BELL: The Property Committee and Session have determined that a subcommittee needs to be formed to determine the future of the church bell that was formerly in the steeple. The reason for this is that they would like the committee to include those individuals who have an interest in this project. The committee will be responsible for researching the following:

- Where it is to be placed
- How it will be displayed
- Cost, including how it will be funded

As an Elder, Janice Propsner has agreed to be the liaison to Session for this committee. If you have an interest in this project, there will be a SHORT meeting after church on Sunday, December 15th. Please contact Janice if you have any questions or concerns and cannot attend the meeting. Janice's Email – rpropsner@comcast.net, Cell# 215-527-4739

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: This week we are asking for the following items: Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, Granola or Cereal bars. Donations are to be placed in the wagon found in the vestibule.

This week's calendar of events:

December 15	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School followed by Coffee Hour
	11:00 am	Church Bell Sub-Committee meeting
	4:00 pm	Iglesia Pentecostal Asamblea De Dios Worship Service
December 16	9:30 am	Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 71 Meeting
December 18	12:00 pm	Bring your Brown bag lunch for Fellowship
December 21	9:00 am	Boys Scout Troop 71 Meeting – all day

Elder of the month: Bill Wark **Deacon of the month:** Maggie Realley

Ushers: Courtney Woolslayer and Rachel Dell'Orefice **Coffee Hour Fellowship:** Bunny Pierce

Sunday school Teacher: Ruth Squillace

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Marge and Jim Turner, Violet Sanders, Mary Lou Humlhanz, Gail Shaffer, Doris Daniels, Janice Propsner



Church Staff
Susan Fall, Pastor
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager

