

Make Ready



St. John's United Church of Christ

An "Open and Affirming" Congregation

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - COMMUNION

Rev. Alice Rauch, Pastor

The Service: 10:00 a.m.

December 5, 2021

*(Let us be silent and prayerful as we prepare ourselves for worship.)*

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**MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Remembering that God calls us through Christ to be ministers with each other, St. John's United Church of Christ, as inspired and directed by the Holy Spirit, seeks: To be inclusive and accessible to all people; To provide loving service to all of God's people through mission and ministry; To strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

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*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

Prelude

Sharing of Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Moment of Meditation - *Ravi Evans*

We Open the Door

Sung response -

**Peace waits for us at Advent**

**Peace waits for us to rest.**

**Peace waits for our acceptance  
of the truth that we are blessed.**

**In this time of preparation**

**for the work of co-creation,**

**for the birthing of a world**

**of gentleness and play.**

**Peace is born in us each day!**

Reader: *Today we offer the Light of Peace to illumine the Door of Welcome.*

*May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.*

*May Peace awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.*

*There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.*

(Lighting the Candle of Hope)

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\*Hymn #116

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Words for All - Especially Children

Choir Anthem - *"Light of Peace"* - *Raney*

Scripture: Philippians 1:3-11

Message                    *“What Really Matters”*

Morning Prayer

Lord’s Prayer (sinned and sinned against us) **Our Father, who art 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 sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Sharing our Joys and Celebrations

Dedication of Gifts for Bethany Children’s Home

A Story of Innkeeping:

**\*Dedication of Gifts and Offerings:** We delight in your love and salvation, Lord, there can be no greater gifts than these. We will gladly serve you in holiness and righteousness. We offer ourselves. We offer all that you have provided us. May it be used to bring your light to those who dwell in darkness. Prepare us and complete us, Lord. Amen.

Communion

**Order for Holy Communion**

Invitation

Communion Prayer

*The Holy One be with you*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts*

**We lift them up to our God.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God*

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

*It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*In the midst of a time of despair, oppression, division, and fear, ...*

*And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine. ...*

*Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours,  
almighty God, now and forever. Amen.*

Sharing the Elements

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving - Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit’s power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen**

\*Love Song of the Angels

\*Hymn #131            *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

## THIS MORNING

**St. John's is pleased you have joined with us today.** We hope that you have found this time to be a blessing. **Please sign** the attendance book located in the Narthex (and kindly include your mailing address/telephone number and/or email) and introduce yourself to the persons who are worshipping around you. If you are looking for a new church family and are interested in knowing more about St. John's, please indicate that following worship to the Pastor or one of the ushers.

**Available to you**, if needed, is a Quiet Room for adults and children, where the service can be seen and heard. Also available are phonic-ear hearing units, large print bulletins, and large-print Bibles. Ask any usher.

**POINSETTIA ORDERS** - There are order forms in the Narthex for ordering poinsettias for Christmas Eve. The deadline for orders is **DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**.

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** - are placed by Angie & Ed Donlin, in celebration of Justin and James' birthdays.

**THANKS FOR SPECIAL MUSIC** - Thanks to Ravi Evans for sharing his talent with us this morning.

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Morning

(Please contact the church office, at 570-523-0162, with any updates)

**Ongoing Needs-** Oliver Auman, Scott Bower, Betty Hackenberg, Janet Heaton, Ingrid, Christine Sartwell, Karin Shawver, Barbara Smith, Joanne & Bill Stahley, Peg Swinehart. Leanne Trout (Dee Ledgerwood's Mother), Linda Williams, Wayne Williams.

**Shut-In/Homebound-** Ann Beasom, Richard Berry, Peg Brouse, Bill & Lola Fuller, Jane Hayes, Evelyn Mabus, Ken Moore, Ethel Moser, Loretta Roberson, Mary Stover.

**Immediate Concerns** - The family of Martha Anderson (Rev. Marian Anderson's mother), Pastor Jan Garinger, Maryjane H., Richard Heaton, Michelle L., Katelynn Mattison, Kay & Gary Nottis, The Family of Timothy Spickler (Roger's brother), Russ Wynn Jr.

### THIS WEEK

|                       |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Monday, December 6    | 7 pm<br><b>7 pm</b>                            | BVS Rehearsal (FH)<br><b>HOSPITALITY COMM. (SANCT.)</b>   |
| Tuesday, December 7   | 1 pm<br>6:30 - 8 pm<br>7:30 - 9:30 pm          | P.E.O. Convention Comm. (FH)<br>Girl Scout Troop 600006 (CR)<br>Men's Westbranch Chorus (CH.RM)                                     |
| Wednesday, December 8 | 7 am - 8:30 am                                 | Lewisburg Sunrise Rotary (FH)   |
| Thursday December 9   | 9 - 10 am<br>10:30-NOON<br>7 pm - 9 pm         | TOPS (CR)<br>Willowbrook String Band (FH)<br>Frosty Valley Dulcimer Friends (FH)  |
| Friday, December 10   | 4 - 6 pm                                       | Suzuki Class (SANCT.)   |
| Saturday December 11  | 11 am  | Suzuki Recital (SANCT.)   |
| Sunday, December 12   | <b>9 am</b><br><b>10:00 am</b><br><b>11 am</b> | <b>BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL (SANCT.)</b><br><b>WORSHIP - (Children's Church during worship)</b><br><b>CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING</b> |

### FUTURE

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - We will hold a congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the proposed budget, elect Consistory members and Committee members. Please plan on staying a few minutes after worship.

**SAVE THE DATE** - On **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will hold a special service of music and drama during our 10 am worship. There will be special musical guests, carols, solo(s), and a "virtual" Christmas pageant from our Christian Education department. Join us in worship and celebration!

**BUFFALO VALLEY SINGERS' CONCERTS** - The Buffalo Valley Singers will present their Christmas Concerts on **Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30 pm**, and again on **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, at **3:00 pm**. Come and enjoy a wonderful musical experience and lift your Holiday spirit!

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PREP** - **TODAY** after the worship service, Adults, Youth and Children are needed to don costumes and be in pictures or short video clips for the Virtual Pageant which will be shown during the worship service On **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, 2021

**THE OUTWARD SIGNS**

Sunday, November 28, 2021

2021 Christmas Boxes - \$10.00; 2021 Poinsettias - \$87.50;  
Thanksgiving Boxes - \$417.93; Chancel Flowers - \$84.00;  
Current Expenses - \$1,137.50; Improvements/Maintenance - \$100.00;  
Loose Offering - \$45.00; OCWM - \$113.50;

**GRAND TOTAL - \$1,995.43 THANK YOU!**

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**St. John's United Church of Christ**

1050 Buffalo Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837 -- (570) 523-0162  
Worship 10:00 a.m. Office: Mon.- Fri. 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
Website: [www.stjohnslewisburg.org](http://www.stjohnslewisburg.org) Email: [stjohnsucc@ptd.net](mailto:stjohnsucc@ptd.net)

***It is a privilege to serve you today . . .***

Rev. Alice Rauch, *Pastor*

Rev. James E. Johnson, *Pastor Emeritus*

Todd R. Hummel, *Dir. of Music/Organist*

Todd R. Hummel, *Bell Choir Director*

Linda Sartwell / Sue Baish, *Sound Technician*

Todd Hummel, *Administrative Assistant*

Sue & Jim Tomlinson, *Greeters*

Kiera Aulenbach, *Acolyte*

Barry Catherman, *Video Technician*

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2021

Luke 3:1-6

### Make Ready

*In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. -Luke 3:1-2, NRSV*

The list of people whose names begin this chapter of the book of Luke are powerful and important. The emperor Tiberius was not merely the ruler of the whole known world, he was considered an infallible god. Tiberius himself appointed Pontius Pilate, whose powerful name very loosely translated means, Free Person Who Carries a Sharp Spear. Just hearing his name, everyone would know that Pilate was not only master of his own destiny, but also that his military prowess was unrivaled. Herod and Philip were brothers in a politically successful family who ruled with the twin fists of nepotism and corruption. Lysanias is not mentioned elsewhere in scripture, but in his own time he was a big deal, big enough that he came to the attention of Cleopatra who sent Mark Anthony to depose him. Last but certainly not least, the two high priests mentioned shared the most important religious role of their time. Together occupying a role meant for one person, they were constantly jostling for position and power.

John's words fell into this world of the famous and powerful, the politically savvy and the militarily successful. He spoke not in the city, or the temple, not in the palace or the town square, not on social media or television, but in the wilderness. John was a nobody, and he spoke in the middle of nowhere to an audience (at first) of no one.

And yet, all these centuries later, his message is the one that is still heard, still followed. It was John, the voice on the margins, who pointed the way to Christ, rather than those at the center of privilege and popularity.

Somewhere in each community, a voice is crying in the wilderness right now. Somewhere on the margins, a messenger is urgently telling of Christ's way. The voice may be hard to hear over the clamoring of the powerful. But this Advent, may we open our ears to hear.