

**Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church**  
**419 Bossardsville Road**  
**Stroudsburg, PA**

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**Celebrating the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
**A Service of Word & Sacrament**

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**11/29/2020**



**And what I say to you I say to all:**

**Keep awake.”**

**Welcome to Christ Hamilton!** Worship is much different now. Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. If you are at home you can find a print copy of this service available on our website at [www.chrighthamilton.org](http://www.chrighthamilton.org). Please print a copy of this bulletin so you might follow along with the video of our service if worshipping at home: share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers.

Know that we are praying for you, our community, nation and world as we wander the wilderness this virus has caused us to walk together. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Visit us on our website: [chrighthamilton.org](http://chrighthamilton.org) and check out our Facebook page.

**Today's service:** *Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

## **PRELUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Minister: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

Minister: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Minister: Most merciful God,

**All: We confess that we are in bondage to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen**

Minister: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

# Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him  
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion,  
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for fa - vored sin - ners slain;  
 robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;  
 still his daz - zling bod - y bears,  
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 those who set at nought and sold him,  
 cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



swell the tri - umph of his train:  
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers,  
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah sec.  
 with what rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

## GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

## KYRIE



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Q** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Q** Lord, have mer - cy.



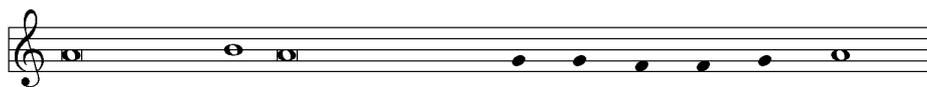
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Q** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Q** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **Q** A - men

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Minister: Let us pray. . . . Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

## **ISAIAH 64:1-9**

Reader: A reading from the 64<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.     **All: Thanks be to God.**

*The Advent candle is lit as all sing. .*

**HYMN            O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**1        Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
          and ransom captive Israel,  
          that mourns in lonely exile here  
          until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**2        Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,  
          who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
          in ancient times once gave the law  
          in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Refrain**

**PRAYER**

Reader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and salvation.

**All: Blessed be God forever.**

**SECOND READING**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Reader: A reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of First Corinthians.

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.     **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*

**GOSPEL****Mark 13:24-37**

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

<sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

<sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

# Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and in her  
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, and saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
 heart new joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,  
 an - gels sing be - fore you. The harps and cym-bals all u - nite.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
 for her Lord comes down all glo - rious, the strong in  
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where, dwell - ing



thrill - ing cry re - joic - es; "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.  
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
 with the choir im - mor - tal, we gath - er round your daz - zling light.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Oh, come, you Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has seen, no ear has yet been trained to hear,



Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare your - selves to meet the  
 Sing ho - san - na! We go un - til the halls we  
 what joy is ours! Cre - seen - dos rise; your halls re -



Lord, whose light has stirred the wait - ing guard.  
 view where you have bid us dine with you.  
 sound; ho - san - nas blend in cos - mic sound.

## APOSTLE'S CREED

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## Prayers

Assisting Minister: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. *A brief silence is shared.*

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. (Local feeding or housing ministries may be named). Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other illnesses especially those we lift to you now. . . . Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Offering**

## Offertory

## Let the Vineyards



**C** Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . Blessed are you,

**All:** Lord our God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness

you have blessed us with these gifts.

With them we offer ourselves to your service

and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that

you have made,

for the sake of him who gave himself for us,

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## Preface

Minister: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Minister: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of  
sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

## *Communion*

*We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Ushers will bring the prepackaged wafer and grape juice to you. Please indicate how many will be taking communion to the usher and hold out the plate and the usher will place the containers on it. **Please open the packet – but do not take the wafer or juice until the pastor has indicated in order that we might commune together.***



**☩** Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*The minister shares with the gathered assembly.*

Minster: The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### COMMUNION BLESSING

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen.**

### PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from  
heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who  
have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may  
abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the  
power of his endless life, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

# Blessing

Minister: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you  
now and forever.

All: Amen

## Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

## **Dismissal:**

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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## **POSTLUDE**

### **Worship Leaders**

Minister	Pastor Peter Kuritz
Assistant Minister	Jeff Gilbert
Reader:	Emil Suarez
Cantor:	Jeff Gilbert
Keyboard	Gail Haydt
Announcements	Dan Courtright

**IMPORTANT:** At the October council meeting, CHULC Council decided **NOT TO MOVE** into the Lighthouse. Due to the increasing COVID-19 cases and for the safety and health of all our members we will remain worshipping **OUTSIDE** through November. We will be also be looking at the updates for Monroe County on mycovid app. to track when it might be safe for indoor gathering.

**A donation** was made to Pocono Area Transitional Housing, in loving memory of son Matthew on his 41st birthday and in honor of grandson Luke Phillips 14th birthday, by Debbie Kolb.

**Please Remember in Prayer:** Gary Kapostas, Joseph Polacek, Sandy Haney, Henry McCool, Diane Datesman, Ruth Ann Helriegel, and the families of Joan Gumm and Bob Conville.

**Greeter/Lector Opportunities:** If you would like to volunteer to greet or read the lessons for one of our church services please call the office 570-992-4085.

**Medical Equipment Needs?** If you or someone you know are in need of a walker, cane, shower seat etc. please call the church office. We have many gently used items of this nature that can be utilized by those in need.

**Missing Something?** There are two boxes of dishes and plates that were left in the Lighthouse kitchen. If you are missing something please look in the boxes by the offering tubs. Please note: these items will be donated/recycled at the end of November if they are not claimed.

**Office of the Aging Gifts:** Gifts need to be wrapped with tag and dropped off at the office by December 18th. Thanks to everyone who took tags for our seniors!

**Thanks** to Pastor Peter for worshipping with us today, while Pastor Steve takes a much needed break!

### **SAVE-THE-DATES:**

**December 5<sup>th</sup>, 8am-2pm:** Matthew Kolb Memorial Blood Drive in the Lighthouse, more information to follow.

**December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:30:** Stephen Ministry “Surviving the Holidays”

**December 20<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-5:30:** will be our next free community take-out meal. Please call the church office with your name and number of meals you will be needing.

**Christmas Eve Service:** will be held on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3pm and 7pm in the Lighthouse parking lot.

**Instead of Christmas poinsettias** this year we will be doing something a bit different. We are asking that you purchase a Christmas luminaire which we will use to decorate for our Christmas Eve service. You can purchase a luminaire in honor or memory of a loved one for \$10 and your gift will be listed in our Christmas bulletin. Please fill out the sheet that came in this bulletin if you would like a Christmas luminaire and leave it in our offering tub with your donation (please put “luminaire” in the memo line if you write a check).

**Altar Flower Dates:** Below are the remaining dates left to sponsor altar flowers/Hospice House:

January 10

January 17

January 31

March 21 (Lent)

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers or make a donation to Hospice House (March 21) please email Amanda [chulcsts@gmail.com](mailto:chulcsts@gmail.com) or call the church office 570-992-4085

**Please look for our December newsletter in the mail this week!**