

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

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**Celebrating the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**12/1/2023**

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FIRST SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

*Often called the Hope candle, the first candle represents the hope born out of all that God has done and will do for humanity. In some traditions, hope is commemorated by looking ahead to the day when Christ will come again. For others, hope is best embraced by looking back—by reflecting on all the promises God has kept and all of the ways God has protected and preserved the world. For this reason, the first candle is also known as the Prophet's candle, as it invites us to celebrate the words of hope and provision prophesied by those like Isaiah.*

**Welcome to Christ Hamilton!** Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at [www.christhamilton.org](http://www.christhamilton.org). Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please know that all are welcome at Christ Hamilton! Life is difficult enough and shouldn't be when you come to church. Regardless of how you got here, we are glad you did. If you don't know your neighbor please welcome them. All are welcome here! Please join us for coffee hour after the service in the serving area of the Lighthouse (*building to right as you exit*).

**Today's service:** Advent is about the “coming days.” God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

*Please consider using the blue envelopes in your pew to make a donation to PVEN for the season of Advent.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

## PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: 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**

Leader: 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.*

Leader: 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**

Leader: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us  
and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Trust in the  
promise and goodness of God.

## SONG

## Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.  
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TUR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704

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## GREETING

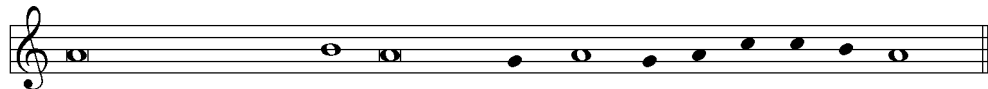
Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

# KYRIE



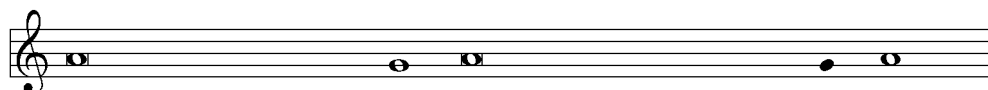
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



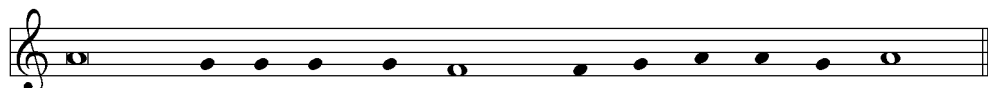
**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



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



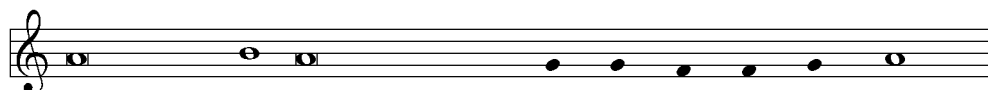
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



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



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: 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

## JEREMIAH 33:14-16

Reader: A reading from the 33<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Jeremiah.

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

## Song

## Light One Candle

*The Advent candle is lit as all sing verse one before the prayer.*



1	Light one can-dle to	watch for Mes-si - ah:	let the light ban-ish	dark - ness.
2	Light two can-dles to	watch for Mes-si - ah:	let the light ban-ish	dark - ness.
3	Light three can-dles to	watch for Mes-si - ah:	let the light ban-ish	dark - ness.
4	Light four can-dles to	watch for Mes-si - ah:	let the light ban-ish	dark - ness.



He	shall bring sal - va - tion to	Is - ra - el,	God	ful - fills	the	prom - ise.	
He	shall feed the flock like a	shep - herd,	gent - ly	lead	them	home - ward.	
Lift	your heads and lift high	the gate - way	for the	King	of	glo - ry.	
He	is com - ing,	tell the glad tid - ings.	Let	your	lights	be	shin - ing!

## **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 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13**

Reader: A reading from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of First Thessalonians.

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

# Gospel Acclamation and response

# We Are Waiting for Jesus

All sing verse one before Gospel reading, verse two after.



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 21:25-36**

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.     **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message**

Intentional Discipleship

Steve Metzgar

# Hymn

# Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!



## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

Leader: 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: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, bare branches and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering especially those we lift to you now . . . . In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another especially our congregational care ministry. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

**All: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

Assisting Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*The Peace is shared with one another.*

## Offering

## Offertory

### We Give Thee but Thine Own

v. 1, 2

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: 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

## **Lord's Prayer**

Leader: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **Blessing**

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

**All: Amen**

# Hymn

# People Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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## **Dismissal:**

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **Worship Leaders**

Message:	Steven Metzgar
Organist:	Beth McElroy
Lector:	Anson Cassidy
Lay Assistant:	John Balas
Greeters:	Sandy Lee and Shirley Frable
Accompanist:	Gail Derrer
Choir Director:	Tassy Gilbert
Announcements:	Amanda Balas, Office Administrator
Videographer:	Steve Metzgar, Craig & Anson Cassidy

**Prayer at the Rail** - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer at the altar after the service for any concerns that you might have.

**Please Remember in Prayer:** Sandy H., Jim. **If you, or someone you know has been hospitalized or needs a pastoral visit please let the office know 570-992-4085.**

**Community Meal Re-Cap:** The community meal was a great success! We logged 85 volunteer hours, served 128 meals (including take outs) and had \$317.00 donated. The donated monies will go to the FOCUS program at Monroe County Meals on Wheels. Big Thank you to all the volunteer help. Could not have done it without the volunteers!



**Gluco Lodge:** Christmas bags for residents of Gluco Lodge will be filled on December 14. We are in need of Christmas cookies, little snack bags and wrapped candies as well. A few sugar free items would be helpful as well. Sign-up sheet in Lighthouse serving area.

**Office of the Aging** Christmas Tree is up in the serving area. Please take a tag from the tree and buy one (or a few) of the listed gifts for your person. **Gifts should be wrapped with the tag attached!!!** Gifts need to be returned to the serving area or the church office by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Poinsettias** are available to order for Christmas. Please fill out the insert in the bulletin or use an envelope where you are seated and mark it Poinsettia and place it in the offering place. Orders and money are due by December 22<sup>nd</sup>, they are \$13 per plant.

**Advent Altar Donations** during the season of Advent, December 1<sup>st</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup> we will not be having altar flowers. Please use one of the blue envelopes in your pew to make a donation to Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network (PVEN) if you are able.

# **Save-the-Dates**

## **Matt Kolb Memorial Blood Drive**

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8am to 2pm in the Lighthouse

## **Decorating the Grounds**

December 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm

## **Christmas Spectacular**

December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm starting in the Lighthouse

## **Fellowship Dinner Group**

December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, Sycamore Grille

## **Christmas Eve Services**

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3pm and 7pm

## 12/13 Christmas Spectacular

Ark 2 and CHULC will be holding our annual Christmas Spectacular on December 13<sup>th</sup>, kicking off in the Lighthouse at 6 pm with the Ark to Christmas program. Following the program there will be fun across the campus for everyone!



## *The Gift that Changed the World*

- Christmas Tree Lighting in Honor of Ms. Penny Carns
- Live nativity
- Santa!
- Snowball fights in the Lighthouse
- Gingerbread house contest
- Homemade Christmas cookies
- Make and take Christmas ornaments
- Wagon rides
- Hot chocolate bar

