

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

**Celebrating the 4th Sunday in Advent
A Service of Word & Sacrament**

12/20/2020



**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices God my Savior.**

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. 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 and check out our Facebook page.

Today's service: *God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

PRELUDE

Creator of the Stars of Night

M. Larkin

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

Savior of the Nations, Come

28

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Show the glo - ry of the Son!
2 Not of hu - man seed or worth, But from God's own mys - tic breath,
3 Won-drous birth! Oh, won-drous child Of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
4 God the Fa - ther is his source, Back to God he runs his course;

Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; Praise the per - fect Son of God.
Fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun When God breathed the Word, his Son.
Might-y God and man in - one, Ea - ger now his race to run!
Down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

5 He leaves heaven to return;
Trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;
Riding out, returning home
As the Savior who has come.

6 God the Father's precious Son
Girds himself in flesh to run
For the trophies of our souls,
Longer than this round earth rolls.

7 Shining stable in the night,
Breathing vict'ry with your light;
Darkness cannot hide your flame,
Shining bright as Jesus' name.

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. **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

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

With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

ROMANS 16:25-27

Reader: A reading from the 16th chapter of Romans.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

**4 Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by your advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain**

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

**5 Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. Refrain**

PRAYER

Reader: Let us pray Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin.

Bless us as we light the candle on this wreath.

Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL

Luke 1:24-46

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26–28, 30–32, 38

Leader An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

Segue immediately to The Magnificat

The Magnificat

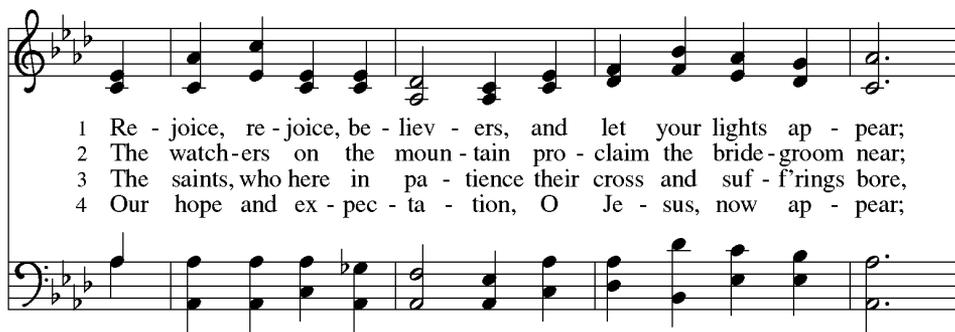
Luke 1:46-55

All

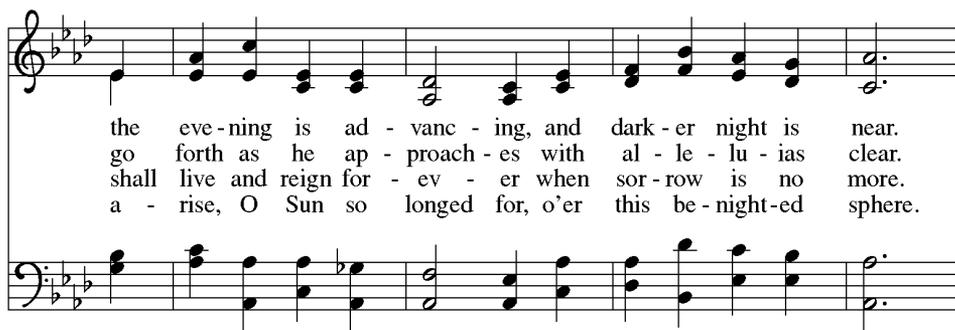
1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -
spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with
ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.
Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,
strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to
D.C.
weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

SERMON

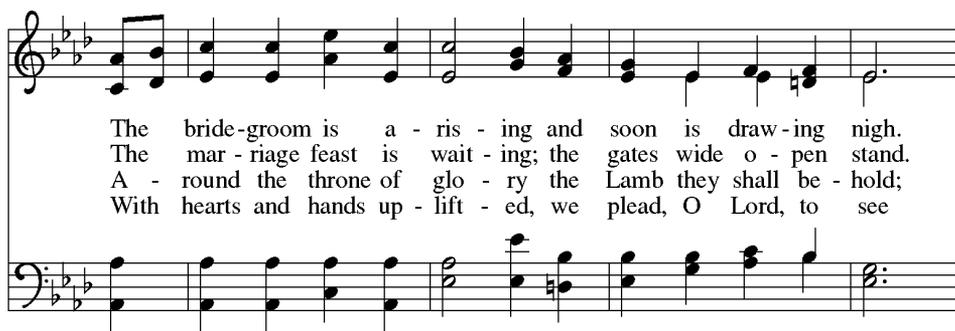
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



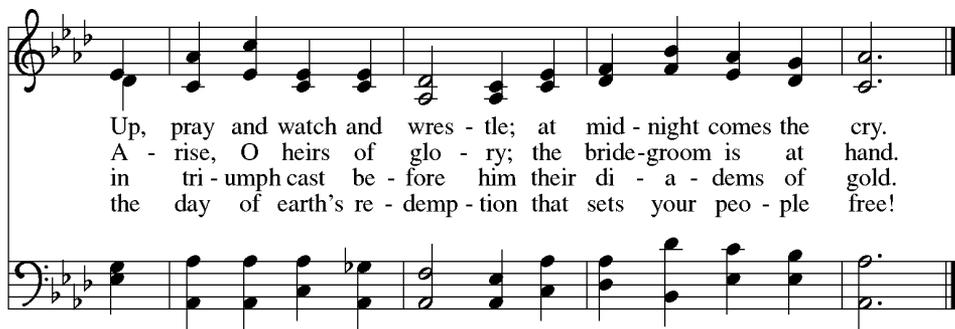
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



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

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, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. *A brief silence. . . .*

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence especially those we raise from our hearts and from our lips at this time Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. M. Hayes

Offertory

Let the Vineyards



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.*



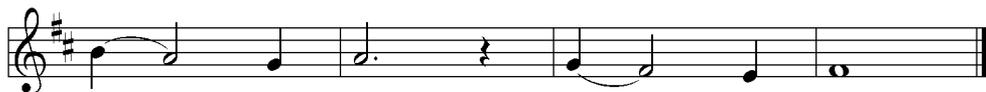
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Worship Leaders

Minister	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Assistant Minister	Andy Porter
Reader:	Adriana Borzio
Cantor:	Andy Porter
Keyboard	Gail Haydt
Announcements	Dan Courtright

IMPORTANT: At the November 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 December. 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 memory of Debby Everett, by Bruce Everett

Please Remember in Prayer: Gary Kapostas, Sandy Haney, Henry McCool, Diane Datesman, Ruth Ann Helriegel and Bev Scheller.

In-Person Sunday School PAUSED: Youth Sunday school will be moving to an online format starting this Sunday. The adult Sunday school class will pause their in-person class, however if you would like to join the ZOOM class on Tuesday nights at 7pm you are more than welcome. Please contact Bonnie C. at 484-824-9637

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.

Friday Book Study: Friday morning book study group is beginning a new book “The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering who Jesus was and is” by NT Wright.

It is a Zoom meeting.

Anyone who would like to join the discussion can contact Jane Person at rajlperson@epix.net or call her at 570-992-5446 or 570-664-1463 so she can send you the Zoom link.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - COVID has put a bit of a damper on Christmas Caroling in people's homes this year however if you love singing Christmas carols we invite you to come out to the December community meal to sing for those families that come curbside to pick up their meals. We plan on meeting at the church at 4:15 out on the lawn in front of the Lighthouse which is where we will sing. Social distancing will be observed. Dress warmly and bring your singing voice and don't forget a mask. We should be done singing by 5:15. If interested please let Sue Butz know at 570-688-8670 or suebellbutz@gmail.com.

Please look for updates on FB and the church website, www.christhamilton.org about cancelations of church events.

Thank you to all the members of my Christ Hamilton family. There were so many cards, prayers, words of encouragement, and visits throughout Bob's illness. Not to mention all the cards and expressions of sympathy since his passing. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a group of believers. As someone wrote on one of the cards, the most important things are the three F's - Friends, Family, and Faith. With Love, Kathy Conville

SAVE-THE-DATES:

December 20th, 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 24th at 3pm and 7pm in the Lighthouse parking lot.