

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA

Celebrating the 2nd Sunday in Advent
A Service of Word & Sacrament

12/6/2020



**Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.**

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: *John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

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

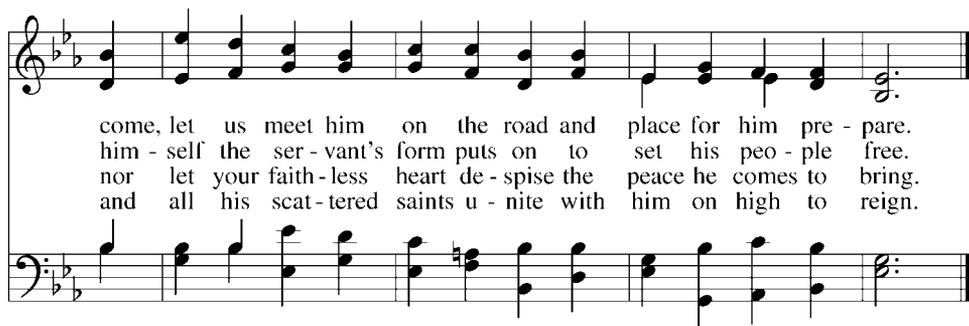
Minister: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

All: Amen

The Advent of Our God



1 The ad - vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son in - car - nate stoops to be,
3 Come, Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly king,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain,



come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre - pare.
him - self the ser - vant's form puts on to set his peo - ple free.
nor let your faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
and all his scat - tered saints u - nite with him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
let sin be put to flight;
no longer let the law hold sway,
but walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
through all eternity.

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-va-tion, 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Reader: A reading from the 40th chapter of Isaiah.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

**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**

Refrain

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

**3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free
 your own from Satan's tyranny;
 from depths of hell your people save
 and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain**

PRAYER

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

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light
 shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ
 has welcomed us, for he is our light and our
 salvation.

All: Blessed be God forever.

SECOND READING

2 PETER 3:8-15A

Reader: A reading from the 3rd chapter of Second Peter.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be

dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

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

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. We especially pray for those we raise now from our lips and our hearts Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

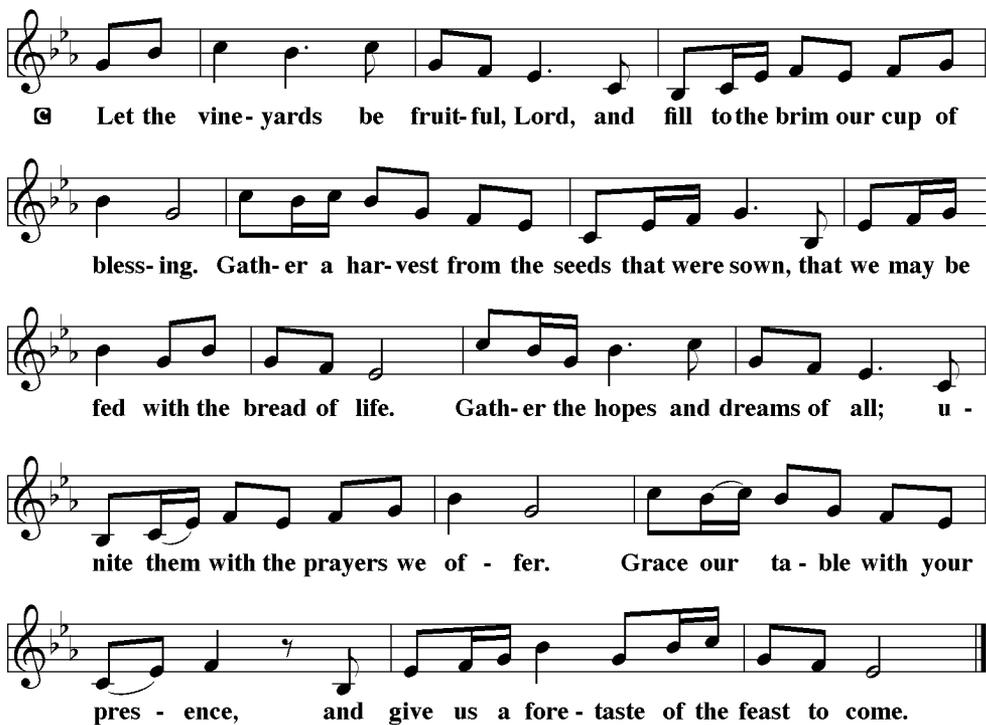
Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

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.***



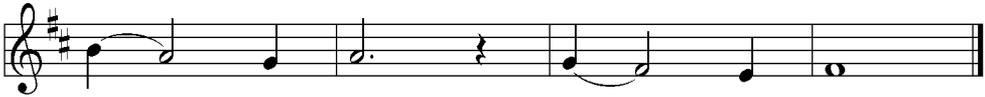
☩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

Minster: 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

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!

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #sb156693.

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders

Minister	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Assistant Minister	Ann Super
Reader:	Bonnie Claycomb
Cantor:	Ann Super
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 loved ones, by the Claycomb family.

The Altar Rose is in celebration of the birth of Makenzie Elizabeth Suarez, born November 24th. Parents Matt and Libby Suarez. Grandparents Emil and Kathy.

Please Remember in Prayer: Gary Kapostas, Joseph Polacek, Sandy Haney, Henry McCool, Diane Datesman, Ruth Ann Helriegel.

Please pray for the family of Pastor Don Billeck, who passed suddenly after a brief battle with Leukemia. Don was a member at St. Johns, Stroudsburg and has been serving as the interim at St. John's in Pen Argyl for about 4 years.

Calling all Light Stringers!: Next Sunday (12/13) after service we could use a few helping hands to string lights around the property for Christmas. Pastor Steve has purchased thousands of twinkle lights and if anyone would like to hang around and help us put them up it would be much appreciated!

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.

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 or call the church office 570-992-4085

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

SAVE-THE-DATES:

December 6th, 1:30-3:30: Stephen Ministry “Surviving the Holidays”

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.



*Like the cold of snow
in the time of harvest
is a faithful messenger
to those who send him.*

P R O V E R B S 2 5 : 1 3