

Coffee & Conversation: Waiting on the Threshold

Christmas now takes center stage. It won't do to keep to the Advent theme of anticipation of the second coming of Christ. We need to relive the first. We need to live into the first. We are on the threshold of a new world. We are waiting on the threshold!

As you refill your coffee and grab your Bible, consider today's

Opening Question: "Where have you encountered God this Advent season?"

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 and Luke 1:26-38

- When does David realize the situation of where he lives versus where God's "home" is?
- What does David propose to do about this situation?
- How do you think David reacted when Nathan announced that instead of David building God a house, God would be building David a house or lineage?
- What do we learn about God from this passage?
- Who was more surprised in these two stories, David or Mary? Why?
- Why is part of the Christmas message that nothing is impossible for God?
- Imagine salvation is like a house. Where are you in relationship to the house? Still outside? On the porch about to come in? In the doorway? In the hallway headed deeper in the house? In the living room by the fire? In an upstairs bedroom?
- What are your hopes for this Christmas?

Holy God who is active and moving among us, we continue to be surprised at how you are concerned for us. Give us the eyes of faith that we might be surprised by your presence the ways you are working within us and within our world this Christmas. Amen.

Sunday, December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Where We Belong: Pitching the Tent

Humanity can try to build a house for God,
but God finds creative ways to dwell with humanity.



Live Worship Available Online and By Phone Sunday 9:45am Service:

To watch live online, go to today's worship page on PennsValleyParish.info
To call in (long distance) dial 1-540-669-0023 then enter the pin number when prompted: 976037831# (Do not forget the pound sign at the end)
Call or log in starting at 9:30am. If you want Pastor Theresa to call you and avoid long distance charges, call her before Sunday at 814-883-9510.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service: watch anytime after 3pm online and listen anytime by phone at 814-422-6238.

Dec 27 - Worship prerecorded and online/phone at 422-6238 only.

Dec 27-Jan 2 - Pastor Theresa will be on vacation. Rev. Debra Daily will be available for urgent pastoral needs. Her number is 570-541-9074.

Jan 3 - Charge Churches reopen for worship. Services continue to be offered online and by the local phone number.

Theresa M. Heiser, Pastor | Office: 814-883-9510 | theiser@susumc.org

Visit us online at PennsValleyParish.info

Faith UMC, 107 Two Steeples Lane, Spring Mills

Saint James UMC, 501 Main Street, Coburn

Sprucetown UMC, 177 Upper Georges Valley Rd, Spring Mills

Trinity UMC, 224 Trinity Lane, Woodward

Services are offered online at PennsValleyParish.info and Facebook.

Listen to the most recent message by phone toll free at 814-422-6238.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Host of Hosts, from sunrise to sunrise, and generation to generation, we are your people.

P: You have been with us wherever we have gone. You will be with us wherever we may go.

L: You planted us in a land flowing with milk and honey, then you planted our salvation in Mary's womb.

P: Jesus, who is the Christ, is planted firmly in each one of us.

L: Our souls magnify the Holy One.

P: Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

L: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

P: We light this candle in hope. *Light the first candle.*

P: We light this candle for peace. *Light the second candle.*

P: We light this candle in joy! *Light the third (pink) candle.*

P: We light this candle with love. *Light the fourth candle.*

L: Hear the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah 3:171. The LORD your God . . . will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love like a child upon the breast. The Lord will exult over you with loud singing. Let us pray: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world.

All: God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

In the rush of preparation for holiday celebration unlike any we've known before, we come to this place to be fed by God. We need the peace, hope, joy and love that this season represents. We need to listen

again with wonder at the magnificent words of Mary as she proclaims her faithful participation in God's most miraculous gift. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to receive the words and the blessings, to be fed and then to be those who will share with others as you have shared with us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful Video

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE There is salvation in the name of Jesus

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER

(The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-38 & 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

MESSAGE Pitching the Tent

COMMISSION & BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION Angels from the Realms of Glory Video

Thank you for joining us today! Have a blessed week. All who call in or log onto worship are invited to stay after for Coffee & Conversation. Today's topic is "Waiting on the Threshold" (back page)

CCLI #1671542 Several elements of today's worship are from MinistryMatters.com, Sermons for Kids, FreeBibleImages.com, the United Methodist Book of Worship and The Abingdon Worship Annual.