

Sunday, December 27, 2020  
First Sunday after Christmas

Where We Belong: Reign It In

God's reign comes about with unexpected people in unexpected places to bring a sense of wholeness in broken places.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 - large Churches reopen for worship, please wear your mask. Hand sanitizing stations available. Services continue to be offered online and by the local phone number. Services include Holy Communion.

8:30am - Trinity UMC, Woodward

9:45am - St. James UMC, Coburn

11am - Sprucetown UMC, Potters Mills

Faith UMC, Spring Mills remains closed until further notice.

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Visit us online at [PennsValleyParish.info](http://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](http://PennsValleyParish.info) and Facebook.

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Praise be to God who has given God's light to us.

**P: Honor and praise to God for God's most precious gift.**

L: The darkness that enveloped the people,

**P: Has been pierced by the Light.**

L: Let us rejoice in God's blessed goodness!

**P: Let us continually praise God with great joy and thanksgiving.**

**AMEN.**

## OPENING PRAYER

**Lord of mercy and joy, You have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

## OPENING HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful

Author: John F. Wade

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

### Refrain

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.**

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
Lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
Refrain

#### 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 Simeon Blesses Jesus

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER

(The Lord’s Prayer “trespass”)

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Luke 2:22-40 & Isaiah 61:10-62:3

MESSAGE Reign It In

#### COMMISSION & BLESSING

#### CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Christmas Medley by the Worldwide Virtual Christmas Choir

NEXT SUNDAY: Pastor Theresa returns from vacation. The charge churches reopen with Holy Communion. Pastor Theresa serving at Trinity UMC, Woodward 8:30am, St. James UMC, Coburn 9:45am and Spruce-town UMC 11am. Faith UMC, Spring Mills remains closed TFN.

## **Bible Study: Enjoying the Company**

There is an inevitable let down after Christmas. This is December 27, only two days after the day that most are still digesting. The other phenomenon that normally occurs at this time is that folks are starting to depart; families are returning home; people are going back to work. That may all be different now, even as we will still be recovering or enduring the pandemic. But there is still a shift in thinking, in focus, in direction in these Christmastide worship experiences and meditations.

Read Isaiah 61:10-62:3 and Luke 2:22-40

- What does it tell us about Jesus that his parents brought him to Jerusalem for the ritual of purification and for what was customary under the law? [Jesus was raised in an observant Jewish home.]
- What does the Scripture mean that Simeon was looking for the “consolation” of Israel? [He was looking for the long-promised time when God would decisively act in Israel’s history so that justice and righteousness would become commonplace.]
- Why might have Simeon’s words in verse 32 have been surprising to some? [It includes the Gentiles. Simeon is prophesying that salvation is not just for the Jewish people, but the whole world.]
- How would you have felt about Simeon’s words if you were Joseph or Mary? How do you think Mary felt after Simeon prophesied that a sword would pierce her soul too?
- How is the story of Anna similar to the story of Simeon? [She too was looking forward to the redemption of Israel.]
- What do we learn about the ministry of Jesus from these stories? [Jesus’ ministry would be about the redemption of Israel and would radiate to the whole world.]

*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.*