

Order of Worship for Sunday, November 28, 2021 – 1st Sunday of Advent: HOPE
For the transformation of the world, we make disciples. We study God's Word and offer praise and
worship as we strengthen each other for outreach beyond the church walls.
Theresa M. Heiser, Pastor Visit the charge site at PennsValleyParish.info
Listen to the message 24/7 at 814-422-6238. Visit PennsValleyParish.info for more details!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Advent Bible Study *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes* by Matt Rawle begins Nov. 29th in person at Sprucetown Church 10am and starting online Thursday at 6:30pm. The book uses the beloved story *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* to offer biblical insights for the season that you can easily share with others. You may show up for the Monday in person sessions, but registration on PennsValleyParish.info is required for the online sessions Thursday so that you receive the Zoom link by email.
- Have Coffee with the Pastor Dec. 8th at Earlstown Diner at 8:30am; and Dec. 15th at Burkholder's Market at 8:30am; and Dec. 21st at IngleBean Café at 9am.
- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES; 3pm at Sprucetown UMC, 6pm at St. James UMC, Coburn

CENTERING WORDS People of faith, prepare for the coming reign of Christ!

SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE *Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

CALL TO WORSHIP / ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY

One: The days are surely coming, says the Lord when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

Many: Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

One: Lights the first purple candle of Advent

One: We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming. For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Many: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amid much confusion, signs leading away from you, we seek your truth. Open our hearts to the wonders of your work and the wisdom of your word. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus #196

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 Jesus is Coming AGAIN!

JOYS AND CONCERNS - (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 33:14-16 // Romans 15:7-13 // Luke 21:5-19

MESSAGE Storybook as Sermon featuring Mouse's Christmas Gift by Mindy Baker

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel v. 1-4 #211

COMMISSION & BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION Silent Night, Holy Night v. 4 #239

THIS WEEK'S SELF STUDY: Time to Go Home

Read [Jeremiah 33:14-16](#) & [Luke 21:25-36](#)

"During the holiday season, I usually feel..." Cheerful Confused Sad Hopeful At a loss Other

"When I think about going home, I usually feel..." Excited Fearful Hopeful Comforted Other

How does Jeremiah envision the coming of the Messiah? What might it mean for the Messiah to execute justice and righteousness?

How does looking forward and looking backward during Advent give us the assurance to "stand up and raise your heads" (21:28) as we wait for the Second Coming?

How do the practices of Advent (praying, waiting, and watching) help us to pay attention and be present to others waiting for the kingdom of God?

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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CCLI #11541746 Several elements of today's worship are from Ministry Matters, Feasting on the Word, Worship Design Studio, the United Methodist Book of Worship and The Abingdon Worship Annual.