

Order of Worship for Sunday, December 19, 2021 – 4th Sunday of Advent: PEACE
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

- The Heart That Grew Three Sizes Study at Sprucetown Monday 10am, online Thursday 6:30pm.
- Coffee with the Pastor Tuesday at IngleBean Cafe 9am
- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES will be held 3pm at Sprucetown Church and 6pm at St. James in Coburn sharing the Christmas story through beloved hymns, Holy Communion and candlelight singing of Silent Night. All are welcome! Services will be offered live via Zoom.
- Learn more about the structure of the church and develop church leadership skills at the Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course training offered Friday, January 21st 6:30-9pm and Saturday, January 22nd 9am-5pm led by Penns Valley Cluster pastors, hosted at Grace UMC, Centre Hall. Cost of \$25 covers the participant's guide, refreshments and lunch Saturday. This enjoyable and informative training is open to everyone. Register online at PennsValleyParish.info or contact Pastor Theresa to sign up. Scholarships available to cover the cost.

CENTERING WORDS Jesus comes in power as the Prince of Peace, always with us, restoring us to God through wholeness and comfort.

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: There will be signs in the heavens and distress among the nations.

Many: When Christ returns in power and glory, people will faint with fear.

One: But when you see these things, lift up your heads:

Many: our redemption is drawing near!

One: Heaven and earth may pass away,

Many: but the Word of God will stand unshaken.

One: *Light the forth candle of Advent: PEACE*

One: We light this candle as a symbol of God's promise of peace. For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness, and renews us in his love. He exults over us with singing and turns our shame to praise, and our worry to peace.

Many: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, you come into our midst, longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace; in Jesus' name. AMEN.

† OPENING HYMN It Came Upon a Midnight Clear UMH #218

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 Peace of Mind and Heart

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

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Colossians 3:12-17 // Mark 13:24-37

MESSAGE Take Peace into Your Own Hands

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

God of signs and wonders, we come to your word again and again, seeking understanding and the new life it offers. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray. Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH #230

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

† CHORAL BENEDICTION Silent Night, Holy Night v. 1 #239

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.