

Order of Worship Sunday, December 4, 2022 – Communion Sunday
Second Sunday of Advent - Find Peace in the Heart of Christmas
Hear Pastor's Sermon by Phone 24/7 at 814-422-6238 - Website: PennsValleyParish.info
For the transformation of the world, we make disciples.

We study God's Word and offer praise and worship, strengthening each other for outreach beyond the church walls.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS "Peace does not mean you won't have any problems. Peace means that your problems won't have you." - Dr. Tony Evans

SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Get ready, people of God! The time of hope and peace is at hand.

P: We are called to action rather than reaction.

L: Open your hearts to God's word and God's will.

P: Help us to be workers for God rather than observers.

L: Come, draw near to God in faith.

P: Let us prepare our hearts to receive the wondrous gifts of God. AMEN.

† CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP – Emmanuel, Emmanuel UMH #204 2x

† LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – We Light the Candle of Peace

L: "They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious" (*Isaiah 11:9-10 NRSV*).

P: We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

L: "In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near." And "bear fruit worthy of repentance" (*Matthew 3:1,2, 8 NRSV*).

P: We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer. Light two candles on the Advent wreath.

† OPENING PRAYER

Patient and loving God, we so easily launch ourselves in preparation for the secular festival of giving and parties and the swirl of social events; but we forget that the true preparation is the readiness of our hearts to receive you. Help us look again at our lives and turn them around so that they may be in tune with your will. We ask this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

† HYMN Let There Be Peace on Earth UMH #431

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 Ready for the Christ of Christmas Matthew 3:1-12

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

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14 // Colossians 1:19-22 // Matthew 5:9

MESSAGE Find Peace in The Heart of Christmas

SERVICE OF WORD & TABLE UMH p. 12

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

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

Peace Reflection and Discussion Questions:

1. What kinds of things tend to rob peace from people's lives?
2. How is the presence of God and the presence of peace related?
3. Why is Christ's sacrifice necessary to reconcile us to God? To ourselves? To others?
4. What is one practical way to live life as a peacemaker?

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on PennsValleyParish.info

December 4 – Watch The Chosen Episode 3: *Jesus Loves the Little Children* 6pm at St. James UMC, Coburn, all are welcome. Youth Pizza Study is at 5-5:50pm for grades 7-12pm - remember to bring your book!

December 6 – Sprucetown Church Ad Council Meeting 7pm at the church, all are welcome

December 11 – Christmas Lunch at Sprucetown Church starting at 12:15pm

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services; 3pm at Sprucetown UMC; 6pm at St. James UMC, Coburn

December 25 – Watch a special message online at PennsValleyParish.info or listen at 814-422-6238.

January 1 – Unified service to be held at 9:45am at St. James UMC in Coburn with live streaming via Zoom and videos online. Listen to the latest message by phone anytime at 814-422-6238.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

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Bishops: Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball Conf. Website: susumc.org

The Penns Valley Charge is part of the Penns Valley Cluster; State College District; Susquehanna Annual Conference; Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church

CCLI #11541746 Several elements of today's worship are from Ministry Matters, Feasting on the Word, the United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022.