

Order of Worship for Sunday, December 10, 2023 2nd Sunday of Advent “Our Just Peace”  
Hear Pastor’s Sermon by Phone 24/7 at 814-422-6238 - Website: [PennsValleyParish.info](http://PennsValleyParish.info)  
For the transformation of the world, we study God’s Word in context to be equipped to live Jesus’ Way.

CENTERING WORDS In the waiting, God calls. May steadfast love and faithfulness rest in our souls. May justice, righteousness, and peace guide our steps and define our community of faith.

#### SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

##### † CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness

**P: Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.**

L: Something new was about to happen.

**P: God would visit God’s people in a new way!**

L: Lord, open our hearts to receive this good news!

**P: Prepare us to be people of great faith and compassion as we look forward to this wondrous event you have proclaimed to us.**

##### † OPENING PRAYER

**God of love and mercy, we thank you for your loving presence in our lives. You have formed us in your image and you continue to transform us as we grow in faith. Break through the darkness in our lives and let the light of your love flood in, that we may become more productive disciples of Jesus Christ. AMEN**

##### † OPENING HYMN In the Bleak Midwinter UMH #221

##### † 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.***

##### JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER (The Lord’s Prayer “trespass”)

##### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

L: In days when God’s people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins” We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

**P: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

L: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God.

**P: Amen.** [Light two purple candles of the Advent wreath.]

HYMN Emmanuel, Emmanuel UMH #204

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-11 // 2 Peter 3:8-15a // Mark 1:1-8

MESSAGE Our Just Peace

† CLOSING HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH #230

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

† CHORAL BENEDICTION O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH #211 Verse 2 only

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;

to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on [PennsValleyParish.info](http://PennsValleyParish.info)

December 10 – Christmas Lunch following 11am Worship at Sprucetown Church. Takes the place of our usual potluck lunch.

December 14 – Our next Advent study. Details on the bulletin board and website.

December 21 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation hosted by St. James UMC, Coburn. Ladies welcome!

December 24 – Unified 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent worship hosted at Trinity 10am (Sunday School at 8:45am)

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services with Communion 3pm at Sprucetown and 6pm at St. James in Coburn

December 31 – We will follow our regular worship schedule.

January 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Bible Study 10-11:30am at Sprucetown UMC. All are welcome!

January 4 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation at St. James UMC. All ladies are welcome.

January 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Bible Study 10-11:30am at St. James UMC, Coburn. All are welcome!

ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

Pastor: Theresa M. Heiser; [theiser@susumc.org](mailto:theiser@susumc.org); 814-883-9510; PO Box 211, Centre Hall PA 16828

District Superintendent: Rev. Brenda Leigey District Website: [statecollege.susumc.org](http://statecollege.susumc.org)

Bishops: Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball Conf. Website: [susumc.org](http://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 #1671542 Elements of worship are from Ministry Matters, A Preacher's Guide Lectionary Sermon Series Thematic Plans for Years A B and C, Feasting on the Word, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023.