

Order of Worship for Sunday, December 3, 2023 The 1st Sunday of Advent “Stay ‘Tuned!’”  
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 Advent is a time of waiting, a time to open our hearts to God’s presence, a time to pay-attention to God’s call. God’s love breaks in over and over again. Be awake! God is near.

## SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather again at the end of the year to wait for the Christ child anew.

**P: We wait in the shocking hope of the coming of the Messiah.**

L: We wait, and we remember the astounding things God has done to save God’s people.

**P: We wait in the shocking hope of the coming of the Messiah.**

L: We wait, and we pay attention for signs of God’s justice and mercy turning the world upside down.

**P: We wait in the shocking hope of the coming of the Messiah.**

L: We wait, and in our waiting, we learn to live as people of God’s promise.

**P: Let us worship in the shocking hope of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.**

### \*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 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus UMH #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.***

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE (based on Isaiah 64:1-2, Mark 13:35)

L: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. Jesus calls to us,

“Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come.”

**P: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.**

L: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another.

**P: Amen.** [*Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.*]

HYMN Emmanuel, Emmanuel UMH #204

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:1-9 // Luke 3:1-7 // Mark 13:24-37

MESSAGE Stay “Tuned”!

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE UMH pg 12

† CLOSING HYMN Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming UMH #216

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

† CHORAL BENEDICTION O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH #211 Verse 1 only

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

December 10 – Christmas Lunch following worship at Sprucetown UMC. Join us!

December 24 – Sunday morning worship 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 – Regular worship schedule

January 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Bible Study 10-11:30am hosted at Sprucetown UMC. Open to all!

January 4 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation 9:30am hosted at St. James UMC. All ladies welcome.

January 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Bible Study 10-11:30am hosted at St. James UMC. Open to all!

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.