

Order of Worship Sunday, December 1, 2024 1st Sunday of Advent, Year A: Come, Let Us Adore Him!

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 The kingdom of God is close at hand. Be alert and see the signs of hope!

SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: As we journey through the Sundays of Advent, listen to the promises of God:

P: a righteous branch springs forth,

L: a promise of justice and righteousness,

P: a promise of safety.

L: Listen to the promise of Jesus:

P: the kingdom of God draws near.

L: Keep alert; watch for signs of hope.

P: Our Advent journey begins.

† OPENING PRAYER

God of every season, as we begin our journey through advent, turn our hearts toward you. Guide us into your realm of peace and joy. Teach us to set aside our worries, as we walk in faithfulness and trust. May the love within us be born anew. Help us remain alert, that we may respond to pain and suffering and notice the signs of abundant life all around us. Come, Lord Jesus; come to us now, we pray. AMEN

† OPENING HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH #211

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 - (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST – St. James UMC & Sprucetown UMC

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

Leader: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days

are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

Leader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign. [*Light the first purple candle on the Advent wreath.*]

HYMN OF PREPARATION O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH #234 verse 1

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 33:14-16 // 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 // Luke 21:25-36

MESSAGE Preparations

SERVICE OF WORD & TABLE UMH pg 12

† CLOSING HYMN Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus UMH #196

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PARTING THOUGHT Beloved, go from this place blessed with a hope that takes root and grows, preparing us to notice, listen, and join in with God's kingdom work among us. Amen.

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on PennsValleyParish.info

December 2, 9, 16 – Advent Book study “On the Way to Bethlehem” begins. It runs 4 Mondays 7-8pm via Zoom. Registration required, start at any time. More at PennsValleyParish.info

December 5 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation for all ladies 9:30am at St. James in Coburn

December 8 – Christmas Lunch at Sprucetown UMC following worship at 11am. All welcome!

December 15 – “A King for All Nations” choral concert at Faith UMC, Bellefonte 4pm.

December 19 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation for all ladies 9:30am at St. James in Coburn

December 22 – Christmas Concerts at Trinity UCC, Centre Hall. Penns Valley Men's Chorus 2pm.

Community Christmas Choir 3:15pm. (Choir volunteers are welcome. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 7pm at Trinity UCC in Centre Hall.)

Christmas Eve Services are Dec. 24 at 3pm at Sprucetown UMC and 6pm at St. James UMC. Invite your friends and neighbors to worship with us!