

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright.  
'Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth! Jesus Lord, at thy birth!

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:  
"Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born."

† COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

† POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar on [PennsValleyParish.info](http://PennsValleyParish.info)

Worship with us Sunday mornings; 8:30am Trinity UMC, Woodward; 9:45am St. James UMC, Coburn; 11am Sprucetown UMC, Potters Mills

December 29 – No worship service or Sunday School at Trinity UMC, Woodward.

January 2 - Ladies Coffee & Conversation for all ladies 9:30am at St. James in Coburn

January 8 - St. James UMC Trustees meet 6:30pm, Administrative Board 7pm.

January 12 – 2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch following worship at Sprucetown UMC. Bring a covered dish to share. Worship at 11am, lunch follows. Administrative Board/ Trustees meet after lunch. We have several worship team volunteer slots open. All are welcome.

January 29 – Soup Kitchen at St. James UMC. Contact Paula Smith to learn how to get involved.

January 16 - Ladies Coffee & Conversation for all ladies 9:30am at St. James in Coburn

January 20 - Adm. Board and Trustees Meeting at Trinity UMC 7pm. All invited!

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

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

Susquehanna Conference Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez Conference Website: [susumc.org](http://susumc.org)

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



Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Worship  
3pm Sprucetown UMC 177 Upper Georges Valley Road, Spring Mills  
6pm St. James UMC 501 Main Street, Coburn

*Sprucetown's Musicians; Organist: Janet Zerby, Pianist: Beth Brown ~ St. James' Pianist: John Abbott*

*Pastor Theresa M. Heiser, Officiating*

† If you are able, please stand where this symbol appears.

## GATHERING MUSIC & WELCOME

† MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP & SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH #234 v. 1-4

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: All people are welcome here tonight.

**Many: We have gathered to hear the story of Jesus' birth.**

One: All who walk in darkness, come to see a great light.

**Many: All who hope to see God, come see the glory of our savior, Jesus Christ.**

One: All who are simply waiting to see what's next, come see the good news God brings.

**Many: We rejoice that God's grace has appeared, bringing salvation to all!**

† OPENING PRAYER

**Open us, O God, to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind with the shepherds to Bethlehem to see the glorious redemption you have brought to pass through the Newborn lying in a manger. AMEN.**

† LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"

**Many: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this"**

One: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

*[Light the Christ Candle]*

† BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

† The 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.*

† The Prayer of Dedication

## A CELEBRATION IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-35

Congregational Response To a Maid Engaged to Joseph (verses 1 & 2) #215

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7

Congregational Response What Child is This? (verses 1 & 2) #219

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-14

Congregational Response The First Noel (verses 1 & 2) #245

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:15-20

Congregational Response Joy to the World (verses 1 & 2) #246

MESSAGE Good News in Unexpected Places

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE Hymnal p. 12

- Confession & Pardon - The Great Thanksgiving

- The Lord's Prayer ("trespass") - Sharing of Bread and Cup

† WE SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

† CLOSING HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night (lyrics are on the back page)

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 2024