

Order of Worship Sunday, December 15, 2024 Gaudete Sunday, Year C: 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 Rejoice and be glad! God is at work while we wait and hope and pray for God's peace to come upon the earth.

SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

P: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

L: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

P: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

L: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

P: Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God.

† OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

† OPENING HYMN Good Christian Friends, Rejoice UMH #224

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 JOY

Leader: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Leader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

[Light the pink candle on the Advent wreath.]

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Isaiah 12:2-6 // Philippians 4:4-7 // Luke 3:7-18

MESSAGE Jesus' Presence Brings Joy

Hymns; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing UMH #240 v. 1-2, Away in a Manger UMH #217 v. 1-2

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH #211 v. 1-2

† CLOSING HYMN Joy to the World UMH #246 v. 1 & 4

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PARTING THOUGHT Joy is not the absence of hardship; it is the presence of God.

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on PennsValleyParish.info

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

December 16 – Advent Book study “On the Way to Bethlehem” final session 7-8pm via Zoom.

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.

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!

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 Trustees meeting at 6:30pm; Administrative Board at 7pm. All are welcome.

January 12 – 2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch following worship at Sprucetown UMC. Bring a covered dish to share. Worship at 11am, lunch follows, then the Administrative Board/ Trustees meeting. All are welcome.

January 15 – 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 – Trinity UMC Administrative Board and Trustees meeting at 7pm. We need more folks to join the board and help with the business of the church. Please consider attending the meeting to learn more.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

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

District Superintendent: Rev. Brenda Leigey District Website: statecollege.susumc.org

Susquehanna Conference Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez Conference 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