

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Zion United Church of Christ**

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

St. Paul's UCC: 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

Zion UCC: 610-659-2775 -- mestme@aol.com -- www.1Zion.org

*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

*Welcome to our Combined
10:15am Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*



**Sunday, November 28, 2021
1st Sunday of Advent**

Welcome

*May God's loving presence be very real to you,
and may you receive strength and guidance today
that will enable you to handle life's challenges.*

Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.
The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul.
(*Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table.*)

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. Due to the COVID pandemic, for the safety of children, we are currently not offering a nursery during worship. Normally, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

For the safety of children, we are not offering Junior Worship during the pandemic. Normally, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs, on the 1st & 2nd Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

For the safety of all, our water fountains are disabled during the pandemic.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the *Blue Visitor Table* in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

{*Symbols used in this bulletin: * = if able please stand; ♯ = Red Hymnal Page; □# = Blue Hymnal Page*}



Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/) (St. Paul's) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Zion-United-Church-of-Christ-Womelsdorf-733032070041250/) (Zion) at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Zion-United-Church-of-Christ-Womelsdorf-733032070041250/> -
Live or Watch & Listen Later
[Phone Stream](tel:1-888-649-5770) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later
[Zoom](https://www.zoom.us/j/104401368): Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-301-715-8592) - Live Only

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

*Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed.
They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *"Clap Your Hands"* *arranged by Barbara Kinyon*

GREETING AND WELCOME

*{To center your hearts and minds,
you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently
during or before the Prelude}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP[®] *(Silently Before Worship Begins)*

In obedience and trust, we approach you, God of the covenant. Day by day, your promises are fulfilled among us. Our redemption is drawing near. Help us to prepare ourselves and our communities for Christ's coming. Equip us now to worship you with all the saints, past and present, nearby and far away. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *"O Come, O Come, Emanuel"* vs. 1 & 2 **Blue # 245**

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*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: **Amen.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP[®]

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord
when justice and righteousness will spring up.

People: **God's promises will be made known to us,
and we will declare God's goodness and salvation.**

Leader: Render thanksgiving to God for all life's blessings.
Watch and pray, in holiness and abiding faith.

People: **God's mercy and steadfast love will surround us.
And we will abound in love for one another.**

ALL: **Amen.**

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION[®] (Leader)

A new church year is dawning. An air of anticipation challenges us to fresh beginnings. Are we weighed down by the cares of life? Are we deceptive and untrustworthy? Do we project on others our own destructive habits? This is a time to rid ourselves of old ways and embrace the newness God offers.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

God of promises and possibilities, we admit that we color the world according to our own limited version. We are often unjust in our judgments and faithless in our relationships. We are haunted by sins we have not confessed. Hear us as we entrust them to your forgiving care. Help us to let go of our transgressions, to renew our covenant with you, and to live constructively with one another. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, whose coming among us we await with great expectation. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

♩Red #518

People (sung):

Leader (spoken):

People (sung):

Leader (spoken):

People (sung):

Leader (spoken): Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

The mercy of God is new every day. We are free to accept the difference it can make in us. God's steadfast love is waiting to embrace us as whole people, to instruct us and to lead us in the paths of truth. Put your trust in God, for that is our only security. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us offer our praise to the Lord.

People: May Jesus Christ be praised.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Let's Worship and Adore Him"

□ Blue # 247

**Let's worship and adore Him,
Let's worship and adore Him,
Let's worship and adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

*Music: Wade's Cantus Diversi; arranged: Tom Fettke
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{Please be seated}

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE[®] - HOPE

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES: *(Leader)*

Today is the beginning of Advent—the preparation time for celebrating Christ's birth. We are here because God's promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born. God's promise is kept each Sunday when we worship because Christ is in our midst. God will keep the promise to come again in glory.

READING OF SCRIPTURE: *(Leader)*

"For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you."

(from Isaiah 60:2)

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE: *(Leader)*

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is hope. Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. God wants us to work for good in this world.

{The first Advent wreath blue candle is lit.}

PRAYER:

Leader: Let us pray...

ALL: O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person—babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in the Advent season, and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God." Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

First Lesson: [Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)

Second Lesson: [1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: [Luke 21:25-36](#)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emanuel" vs. 3 & 4 Blue # 245

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON "COMING DAYS"

We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have
learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by
re-affirming our faith in God,
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world,
and giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended to the dead;
on the third day he rose again,
ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

†The word "catholic" means "the universal church" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed.
It does not refer here to the particular denomination of the Roman Catholic Church, but rather the whole
Christian church of all denominations, the body of Christ, as a universal fellowship.

{please be seated}

OPPORTUNITIES OF OFFERING TIME AND TALENT

Prayer Needs, Joys, Opportunities for Study and Service, and other Announcements

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: Look around you with a sense of awe and wonder.

People: **Even in the most difficult circumstances of life, we can find beauty and integrity and places where God's abiding glory is evident.**

Leader: Let us give thanks for God's imprint on our lives, for the sustaining word that gives purpose to our days,

People: **and for the ministry in which we are engaged together.**

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in hybrid worship, there is no passing of the plate in person.
A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed
when arriving or departing from the sanctuary.*

*Whether worshipping in person or online,
the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church
is through St. Paul's UCC secure [Online Giving](https://sprucc.org) option on our website at sprucc.org. [St. Paul's UCC Click Here](#)
or Zion UCC's online giving at www.1Zion.org - [Zion UCC Click Here](#)*

*Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551
or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.*

OFFERTORY

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *“Let’s Worship and Adore Him”*

□ Blue # 247

**For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy
For He alone is worthy,
Christ the Lord.**

*Music: Wade’s Cantus Diversi; arranged: Tom Fettke
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***OFFERTORY PRAYER** [®] *(Leader)*

Thank you, God, for this family of faith, which enriches our lives and enables us to share. Thank you for making us aware that some faint with fear and others dwell in hopelessness. We are grateful that you show us ways to lift the burdens of our sisters and brothers. May our offerings further this ministry among us and beyond our community. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion ^{®®}

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God, through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)

***INVITATION**

Leader: Dearly beloved in the Lord: Our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Communion of his Body and Blood, that it might be the abiding memorial of his atoning death; the seal of his perpetual presence in the Church through the Holy Spirit; the mystical representation of the sacrifice of himself on the cross; the pledge of his undying love for his people; and the bond of his living union and fellowship with them to the end of time.

ALL: **The celebration of the Lord’s Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the innermost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. What we do here is not merely with signs, but with the realities these signs represent. We seek to approach the Lord’s Table rightly, striving to be devout and repentant, with a believing mind.**

Leader: We cordially invite to partake of this Sacrament all who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of his Church, and who desire to possess his Spirit and walk in his ways. To all such the compassionate Redeemer himself says: Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, who made humankind in your own image, and whose tender mercies are over all your works.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy and sing....

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***SANCTUS**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Seraphic Hymn

{Sanctus is Latin for "Holy." Seraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Seraphim Angels. Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world}.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

*Written by Alonzo P. Howard
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{Please be seated}

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader:

Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**ALL: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, the gifts of bread, wine, and grape juice, bless these before us here in this place and bless those being shared in homes this day, and bless us all as we receive them. May we offer you our faith and praise, through the Holy Spirit may we be united in communion with Christ and with one another, experience oneness with all Christians on this the First Sunday of Advent no matter the physical distance, and may we continue faithful in all things.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
People: have mercy on us.
Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
People: have mercy on us.
Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
People: grant us peace.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are ready.

BREAKING THE BREAD, RAISING THE CUP, AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*{For those who have the pre-filled cups:
open the first seal - unleavened bread wafer}*

Pastor: The Body of Christ broken for you. Take and eat.
People: Amen.

{You may eat the bread}

*{For those who have the pre-filled cups:
open the second seal - the fruit of the vine - grape juice}*

Pastor: The Blood of Christ shed for you. Take and drink.
People: Thanks be to God.

{You may drink the wine or grape juice}

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

We Are Sent Out

*In response to God's love and grace,
we go out into the world to share God's Good News
through our words and actions.*

***COMMISSION** ©

Leader: Find your direction in life as you follow Christ.
Find in your neighbor a brother or sister in Christ.

People: We are all children of the one God.

We are all beloved, honored, and set free.

Leader: Sure God will bless our journey.

Go in peace, confident of God's abiding grace.

People: We will worship God together and alone.

We will be present for one another when needed.

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ **Red #558**

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***SENDING HYMN "O Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

□ **Blue # 244**

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*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}*

POSTLUDE

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

ALL are invited

*to share in a time of Refreshments and Fellowship
in the downstairs Miller Fellowship Hall*



The Altar Flowers are Sponsored by

The Bulletins are Sponsored by

Richard & Sue Hiester

In Memory of Parents: Earl & Anna Hiester and Lee & Lillian Spangler



The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

- (1) God welcomes us and invites us
- (2) We respond to God's call by worshipping Him
- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) We experience greater oneness with God and each another through Communion
- (9) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



Worship Service Resource Credits

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 - *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
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 - The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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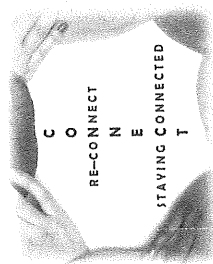
Link to Website's Upcoming Events

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST **Communitas** PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464
484-949-8774

November 28, 2021

Re-SCHEDULED !!!



**Connect,
Reconnect,
Staying Connected**
w/ Rev. Cean James

Building and Maintaining Fellowship during the prolonged Covid Pandemic

TWO workshop options available.

Choose the one you are comfortable with!

January 22nd—VIA ZOOM

Register at: <https://pseconnect0122.eventbrite.com>

January 29th—IN PERSON @ First UCC, Schuylkill Haven

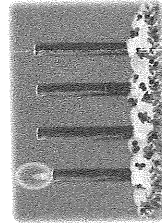
Register at: <https://pseconnect0129.eventbrite.com>



Facebook Advent Postings

As in years past, today marks the beginning of our daily Facebook Advent posts. Need to take a few moments each day of this hectic season to re-focus? Perhaps the daily PSEC Advent posting is just what you need.

Postings began today and will continue through Christmas Day!



LIVING ADVENT as a VERB

If you search for the word 'advent', you will discover that it is a noun: "arrival of a notable person, thing, or event." This concept of Advent being a noun, falling into the category of a person, place or thing... made me pause. Yes, we are remembering the arrival of Jesus, yes we are waiting God breaking into the world with hope for transformation and yes, this is a big event in that we are beginning a 'new' liturgical year. We are also waiting for that second coming...aren't we?

As I sat with this, I wondered what would happen if Advent would be embraced as a verb. So of course I decided to search for the word verb: "a word used to describe an action, state, or occurrence, and forming the main part of the predicate of a sentence, such as hear, become, happen."

You see, God has already broken into our world and Jesus...our Christ has arrived and while some use the language of waiting for that second coming, I think part of the wonder of God's call on our lives as Christians is LIVING ADVENT as a VERB. What will the world hear from us? How do we become what/who God has called us to be? What will happen because we receive this Holy One into our very being? If our life is what we give in return, how can we be Christians as a verb instead of a noun? How will we live Christianity as a verb?

Our biblical text is a gift of history, literature and faith. While reading the Bible it becomes obvious that humanity has always had struggle, pain, suffering, and oppression. In some ways that gives me hope because what we live through isn't new. Our biblical text also gives me hope because God is in this with us. God risked coming to us as a vulnerable baby! God is always moving in this creation...in our lives. God does this and 'like' human parents, God releases us into the world to live and BE people of faith. We may be born nouns but we are released into the world as verbs.

This Advent, may you discover your life as a verb and live the wonder of your own being inrelationship with God and others.

- Rev. Dr. Susan Minasian
Interim Associate Conference Minister for Search & Call

About Today

Church Season: Advent - is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ: (1) the second coming of Christ; (2) the preparation for the anniversary of Jesus' birth on Christmas; and (3) the reminder to be daily aware of Christ's presence for the Kingdom of God is near. The season of Advent takes place during the four weeks before Christmas.

Color of the Paraments (cloths on the altar, pulpit, and lecturn):

Blue - symbolizes the hope found in the anticipated coming of Christ

Violet - symbolizes royalty and penitent preparation for Christ our King, who offers forgiveness

Rose/Pink - symbolizes joy, as expressed by Jesus' mother Mary

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year C**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Luke.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible.

This Sunday, November 28 -- Lectionary Reading for First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Jeremiah

The book of Jeremiah (OT) is attributed to the major prophet Jeremiah and written around 600-500 B.C. (B.C.E.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct. Jeremiah's ministry extended over the last tragic forty years of the kingdom of Judah to the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of the Jewish people to Babylon.

Psalm 25

In this OT song written by King David, we uplift our souls in prayer to God for guidance and deliverance. It is especially intended to be a sung prayer in times of trouble, seeking God's forgiveness, help, and direction.

The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

This epistle (letter) is the oldest book in the NT. It was written by the Apostle Paul in Corinth around 51 A.D. to the church in Thessalonica, which is the Roman capital of the Macedonian province, a port city on the northern shore of the Aegean Sea. Timothy, Paul, and Silvanus founded this church. Timothy went back to Thessalonica and reported to Paul that the people there were anxious because Paul had not returned, and in response Paul wrote this pastoral letter. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to Luke

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. (C.E.). Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, December 5 -- Lectionary Reading for Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 11:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 245

The virgin will give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

Em D Am C Am G B D G D Bm G C G B

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el And ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
 3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high And or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

1 2 3 4

Am F#° Em Bm Em Am C Am Em D F# Em Bm C D

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show
 heart and mind. Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease;

5 6 7 8 9

Em D Bm G G B Am C Am G B D G Refrain D Em Bm

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 And cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

10 11 12 13 14

G Am C Am G B D Em D F# G G B C G B Am F#° Em Bm Em

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

15 16 17 18 19

TEXT: Latin Hymn, *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, 1710;
 translated by John M. Neale, stanzas 1,2, altered;
 Henry S. Coffin, stanzas 3,4 altered
 MUSIC: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore, altered

VENI EMMANUEL
 L. M. with Refrain

247 Let's Worship and Adore Him

All nations will come and worship before You. Revelation 15:4

G D/G G G⁴ G D/F# G C G/D

Let's wor - ship and a - dore Him, Let's wor - ship and a - dore

1 2 3 4

D G D⁷ A G D F# A⁷ D D C G B Am⁷ G D D⁷ C D G

Him, Let's wor - ship and a - dore Him, Christ the Lord.

5 6 7 8

Optional additional stanza setting

Unison Eb⁷ Ab Eb Eb Ab Bbm Ab Eb Ab Eb D^b Ab Eb Eb

For He a - lone is wor - thy, For He a - lone is wor - thy,

9 10 11 12

Ab Bbm C Bbm B^{b7} D Eb Eb Ab D^b Ab Eb Eb D^b Ab Bbm Ab

For He a - lone is wor - thy, Christ the Lord.

13 14 15 16 17

Optional transition to "I Extol You"

TEXT: Traditional

MUSIC: Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751; arranged by Tom Fertke

ADESTE FIDELES (Refrain only)

7.7.10.

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PRINCE OF PEACE - A Worship Sequence

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244 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

The Lord has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives. Isaiah 61:1

F F⁴ F F⁴ F C⁷ C⁷ F C C⁴ C E A C⁷ F E A G^m F C⁷ F

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free.
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a Child and yet a King,

F F⁴ F F⁴ F C⁷ C⁷ F C C⁴ C E A C⁷ F E A G^m F C⁷ F

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

F C⁷ F C⁷ C⁷ C⁷ C⁷ F C F C⁷ F A C⁷ F C

Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it, Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

E F E C⁷ C⁷ C⁷ F F A F C C⁷ C E A F B^b F A B^b F C⁷ F

Dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

TEXT: Charles Wesley

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard; arranged by Robert Harkness

HYFRYDOL

8.7.8.7.D.

A lower setting may be found at No. 309

Optional choral ending

F D G^m G^m⁷ B^b B^b⁶ C B^b F

E^b D F[#] C C C C C

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el.