



LEWISTOWN CHURCH
Presbyterian

Shining the light of the gospel into the heart of Lewistown since 1785

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent: Hope
Sermon: Looking Forward in Advent

People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed, there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last. -- Luke 13:29-30

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Pastors: James Thomas and Robert Zorn

LEWISTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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December 3, 2017

10:30 AM

Prelude Lift Up Your Heads Smith
 Jesus, Lover of My Soul Young

Welcome and Announcements

Introit Rejoice! Emmanuel Helmore

Call to Worship Isaiah 65:17-25

Leader: The Lord says, "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

People: But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

Leader: I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people;

People: The sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

Leader: They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

People: No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat.

Leader: They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;

People: They will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them.

Leader: Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

People: Wolf and lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food.

Leader: They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

* **Hymn #9** (blue)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

* **Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* **Song of Response #579**

Glory Be to the Father

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

Lighting the Advent Candle

Unison Prayer

We thank you, our Creator and Redeemer for the hope that we have in you. Help us to believe the promises you made through the prophets and through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess that we often put more hope in the things of this world than we do in your Kingdom. Forgive us and give us eyes to see the truths of

eternity so that we avoid the sin that seeks to destroy us and choose instead to seek wholeheartedly your glorious and eternal Kingdom.

Anthem Bethlehem Calls arr: Williamson
Children's Sermon

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Come, Savior of the Gentiles Pachelbel
* Doxology #592 (blue)
* Prayer of Dedication

*** Song** In Christ Alone

- 1) In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my Light my strength my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.
- 2) In Christ alone who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.
- 3) There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.
- 4) No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,

Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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Scripture Reading

Luke 14:12-23

Sermon

Looking Forward in Advent

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table
Communion Prayer
Distribution of the Bread
Words of Institution
Distribution of the Cup

Lord's Prayer

Traditional

**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.**

*** Hymn #15**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

*** Benediction**

*** Closing Chorus**

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Postlude

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Ritter

**If comfortably able please stand*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Accompanist: Joan Loewen

Introit & Anthem: Chancel Choir; Doug Garner, director

Liturgist: Elaine Siddons

Next Week: Susan Ferguson

Acolyte: Bailey Cullen

Power Point Projection: Liam Shelly

Advent Candle Lighting: Zoë and Ciarán Finan

Next Week: Kevin and Mabelle Kodish

Children's Sermon: Devon Thomas

Next Week: Leah Riden

Ushers: Bill Sisson (lead usher), Don Pecht, Pam Pecht, Vicki Pecht, Miranda Shoop

Children's Church: Leah Riden

Next week: Leah Riden

Sermon: Pastor Thomas

Infants/Preschool: Rachel Cunningham and Riley Cullen

Next week: Tara Reeder and Margo Reeder

Deacon for the Month: Lynn Curry

Counters: Lonnie Griffith and Ed Curry

Next Week: Pat Brown and Kari Cullen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! If you are visiting with us, please sign the Visitors' Register and pick up a Welcome Bag in the narthex. Children's activity bags, Bibles, large print hymnals and hearing devices are available from the ushers. Childcare through age four is available throughout the service. Children's church is available for children age 5 – grade 4 following the children's sermon on Sundays without the Lord's Supper.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given by Dave, LaDonna, Andrew and Jessica Smith in loving memory of Guy and Gladys Mosgrave.

ADVENT RECITAL: Grace United Methodist Church will host an Advent Recital on Sunday, December 10 at 3 PM. Grace Church musicians and other local favorites, including InJoy, Jerry Stone's flute trio, and Joan and Phil Loewen will be performing. Refreshments will be served after the program. Plan to come for an enjoyable afternoon.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT: This Saturday, December 9, 3:30 – 7:30 PM. Our youth would like to give the gift of a few hours of childcare to parents who could use some time to shop, wrap, nap or just enjoy some quiet moments. The kids will enjoy making pizza for supper, games, crafts and a movie. Please sign up on the bulletin board. You will need to fill out a release form, which is also available at the bulletin board.

YOUTH GROUP: Our youth are active in fellowship, study, and service. All youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to attend these great opportunities:

- **Small Group Study** each Sunday morning at 9 AM on the third floor. We are in the midst of a five-week study called, "God's Call." Come join us!
- **Youth Group Meeting** each Sunday evening from 6 – 7:30, the youth meet on the third floor, for fun, games, food, fellowship, study and prayer.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY: Many small groups are available to encourage you in your faith:

- **Adult Sunday Morning Study** led by Pat Brown meets in the church parlor on Sundays at 9 AM. We will be taking a break from studying "Ten Women of the Bible" to delve into Max Lucado's "Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born; Hope is Here." This is the partner piece to "He Chose the Nails" that we benefited from last year during Lent. Please join us!
- **Youth Sunday Morning Study:** All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome! The group meets on the third floor at 9 AM and is studying, "God's Call."
- **Sunday Afternoon Study** meets on the first Sunday of each month for growth and encouragement. They meet in the parlor following the worship service.
- **Tuesday Evening Group** meets at the home of Jim and Kris Hill at 6:00 PM. They are studying, "Being a Disciple: Counting the Real Cost" by Kay Arthur, Tom & Jane Hart. All are welcome.
- **Wednesday Morning Group:** This group meets at 6:30 AM on Wednesday at the manse and is led by Pastor Jim. The current study is "Before Amen," a study on prayer by Max Lucado.
- **Sunday Evening Group** meets from 6:00 – 7:15 PM at the manse (108 N. Brown St.) and is led by Pastor Jim and Devon Thomas. Their advent study is Max Lucado's "Because of Bethlehem."

BACKYARD MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNERS: We are collecting items for 22 dinner bags for Backyard Ministry Families. Each bag will need to contain: 1 can of corn, 1 can of beans, 1 box of stuffing mix, 1 box of instant potatoes and 1 gravy packet. The bags will be delivered on December 19. If you can collect these items, please place them in the box marked "Backyard" in the narthex by Sunday, December 17. Thank you!

BLANKET COLLECTION: TODAY is the deadline drop off your donations. If you would rather give money, you can give it to Devon Thomas and she will make the purchases for you. Thank you! These blankets will be added to the Power Packs distributed through the LUMINA Center to children in need at the Lewistown Elementary School.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROJECT: The gifts will be wrapped Monday, December 4 beginning at 9 am. You are welcome to join the wrapping party! Bring your own scissors. For more information, please contact Margie Smith, Amy Smith or Pat Brown.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR: The East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church in Reedsville is hosting their annual Alternative Gift Fair today from 12:30 – 3:30 pm. This holiday season you can give gifts that make a difference by contributing to one of 17 local charities in honor of a family member or friend. Local charity representatives will be present to tell you how the donations will benefit the community. When you make a donation in honor of someone special in your life the church will provide you with an attractive card and an insert describing the contribution you made on their behalf.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held following worship on December 10 for the purpose of electing officers, reviewing the 2018 budget and approving the pastor's terms of call for 2018.

GIVING REPORT AS OF 11/26/17

Weekly Need:	\$ 3,265.14	YTD Need:	\$ 155,972.04
Last Week:	\$ 1,563.00	YTD Received:	\$ 153,368.46

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:6-8

⁶ On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. ⁹ In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Luke 14:12-23

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

¹⁶ Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

¹⁸ "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

¹⁹ "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

²⁰ "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

²¹ "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

²² "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

²³ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.'

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

December 3 – December 10, 2017

TODAY, December 3 Communion

- 9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Parlor
- 9:00 AM Youth Study Group – Youth Room
- 9:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Adult Small Group – Baraca Room
- 6:00 PM Youth Group
- 6:00 PM Adult Study Group - manse

MONDAY, December 4

- 9:00 AM Christmas Project wrapping
- 6:00 PM Joy Seekers
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, December 5

- 6:00 PM Small Group @ Jim & Kris Hill's home

WEDNESDAY, December 6

- 6:30 AM Small Group Study @ the manse
- 11:30 AM Senior Ladies @ Honey Creek Inn
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 7

- 7:00 PM Session/Committee Night

FRIDAY, December 8

- 6:00 PM Staff Dinner

SATURDAY, December 9

- 3:30 PM Parents' Night Out (ends at 7:30)

SUNDAY, December 10

- 9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Parlor
- 9:00 AM Youth Study Group – Youth Room
- 9:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting
- 12:00 PM Deacons' Meeting
- 3:00 PM Youth caroling and supper
- 6:00 PM Adult Study Group – manse