



LEWISTOWN CHURCH
Presbyterian

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

December 1, 2019

1st Sunday of Advent

Speaker: Rev. Sarah Sedgwick

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

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Pastors: Sarah Sedgwick and Robert Zorn

All: We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

Leader: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

All: We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

Leader: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

All: Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

All: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

The Christmas Tree and Ornaments

Choral Anthem

A Celtic Christmas

Passing of the Peace

Leader: As we have been forgiven, let us forgive each other. Let us greet one another with a sign of God's peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Children's Chat

Prayer of Illumination

Almighty God, amid much confusion, signs leading away from you, we seek your truth. Open our hearts to the wonders of your work and the wisdom of your word. **Amen.**

Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 24:36-44

The Manger

Hymn #25 (blue)

Away in A Manger

The Evergreen Wreath

Hymn #31 (blue)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
verses 1, 3

The Nativity

Hymn #44 (blue)

O Little Town of Bethlehem
verses 1, 3

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Forest Green

Wood

Doxology #592 (blue)

Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn #2 (blue)

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charge and Benediction

Learn to do good: seek justice,
Rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan,
Plead for the widow, trusting in the
Power of God to do all things.

And now may the deliverance of God,
The grace of Jesus Christ,
And the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
Go with us all and give us peace. Amen.

* **Congregational Response #576** (blue) Gloria, Gloria
Postlude Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People McConnell
**if comfortably able, please stand*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Accompanist: Joan Loewen

Introit & Anthem: Chancel Choir; Director, Doug Garner

Liturgist: Sue Garner

Next Week: Lisa Snyder

Acolyte: Abi Riden

Children's Chat: Pastor Sarah

Next Week: Sue Garner

Ushers: Lonnie Griffith (head usher), Christopher Griffith,
Harold & Gerri Aitkin, Larry & Janie Welshans

Children's Church: No children's church; Communion

Preaching: Rev. Sarah Sedgwick

Infants/Preschool: Elaine Siddons

Next Week: Zoe Finan

Deacon for the Month: Janie Welshans

Counters: Lisa Snyder & Lynn Curry

Next Week: Jack Wilson & Maryann Haines

HANGING OF THE GREENS READERS/PARTICIPANTS

The Advent Candles – The Garner Family

The Christmas Tree and Ornaments – Bill Sisson

The Manger – Ken and Ruth Fisher, McKenzie Donahue

The Evergreen Wreath – Lynn Curry

The Nativity – Ginny and Mercy Westover

Thank you for helping lead worship today!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Matthew 24:36-44

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

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WEEKLY REFLECTION PAGE

You are encouraged to use the Advent activities and reflection questions throughout the week to prepare your heart to receive the good news of Christmas.

Unwrapping More of His Love in the World

Jesus is calling for you: "Where are you?" Sing a worship song or Christmas carol, and invite Him to come and be with you.

A Moment for Reflection

In what ways do you feel like a lifeless stump, longing for a tender shoot of hope? What are you yearning for this season?

We must be sure of the infinite good that is done to us by our Lord Jesus Christ, in order that we may be ravished in love with our God and inflamed with a regular affection to obey Him, and keep ourselves strictly in awe of Him.

John Calvin

Feel free to share some thoughts on the reflection question with Pastor Sarah by emailing her at pastorsedgwick@gmail.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! If you are visiting with us, please sign the Visitors' Register and pick up a Welcome Brochure. Children's activity bags, Bibles, large print hymnals and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a meeting of the congregation following the worship service on December 15 to elect officers. Please make plans to attend.

ATTENTION ELDERS AND DEACONS! A joint session/deacons meeting will be held Thursday, Dec 12, 7:00 PM for the purpose of receiving new officers and discussing mutual church ministries. Please make plans to attend! Come early at 6:30 PM for fellowship and Christmas treats, provided by Pastor Sarah.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD—Suggested items for December; sweet potatoes (canned), instant potatoes, soup, cereal, fruit, canned/boxed juices and paper products.

THE GREEN CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE has been designated for the Preschool Scholarship Fund. This will be collected today during worship. Please give generously to help children who would like to attend our Preschool.

THANK YOU! The first book "Snowmen at Night" from our Book Buddies was sent home with the Preschool children.

BACKYARD MINISTRIES:

- **GIVING TREE:** Socks and "One Gift" per child. There is a tree in the narthex with tags indicating a boy or girl and size of the socks. Then purchase a toy for the boy or girl of no more than \$10 in value. **No need to wrap the gifts.** Gifts will be returned to the church by **December 8.** Monetary donations are always appreciated as well, if shopping is not an option.
- **CHRISTMAS DINNER BAGS:** We are accepting donations of instant potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy packet, canned corn and beans for Christmas dinners. You may bring donations to the narthex.

We need church members to serve as Elders or Deacons beginning in 2020. Please prayerfully consider serving God in this way. We need your gifts and abilities as we discern our steps moving forward. If you are willing to serve, please contact Lisa Snyder at lmsnyder61@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, December 1 Communion/ Hanging of the Greens

9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Library

10:30 AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship Service

MONDAY, December 2

11:30 AM Prayer Ministry

TUESDAY, December 3

6:30 PM Small Group Study – third floor

WEDNESDAY, December 4

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, December 8 Children’s Musical

9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Library

10:30 AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship Service

11:30 AM Deacon’s meeting

GIVING REPORT AS OF 11/24/19

Weekly Need: \$ 3,173.08 YTD Need: \$ 149,142.76

Received: \$ 2,223.00 YTD Received: \$ 147,162.61

If you would like to schedule a meeting or event at the church, please call the church office so that we can avoid conflicts and properly publicize church related events.

A number of 12 Step Groups meet in the church building throughout the week. If you or someone you know is interested, call the church office or check the listing at the Third Street church entrance for a list of meeting times.