

# LEWISTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

**December 22, 2019**

**10:30 AM**

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<b>Prelude</b>	Il Est Ne, le Divin Enfant	Wood
	Sussex Carol	Wood

## **Welcome and Announcements**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

**All: And also with you!**

**Introit** Rejoice! Emmanuel Arr: T. Helmore

## **Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Maryann and Annalise Haines**

Leader: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:10-14

**All: Today we relight the candles of hope and expectation, recalling God's promise; the candle of peace and preparation, remembering the voice crying in the wilderness, urging the people to prepare the way of the coming Lord; and the candle of joy and proclamation, reminding us of the joy found in HIM. Now we light the candle of love and revelation. We celebrate the announcement of the coming King and the greatness of God's love revealed through the Christ child.**

Leader: Let us praise God together!

\* **Hymn #48** (blue)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

## **Call to Confession**

## Prayer of Confession

**Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. Restore us, O Lord, let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.**

## Silent Prayers of Confession

### Declaration of Pardon

You are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

**For the sake of the One God promised to send,  
Named as God's Son,**

Who died, was raised, and through whom we receive grace,  
God forgives you all your sins.

**We are all God's beloved,  
Called to be saints.**

Grace to you and peace.

**And also with you. Amen.**

## Passing of the Peace

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." The peace of Christ is ours, through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Let us exchange signs of peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## Children's Chat

**Christmas Cantata**      *One Noel: Sing the Song of Christmas*

A Joyful Noel Medley

One Noel

Open Up the Heavens

He Would Come to Me

We're Tellin' Good News

Now All Is Well

The First Noel

# Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Lasky

Doxology #592 (blue)

\* **Hymn #23** (blue)

Angels We Have Heard on High

## Charge and Benediction

People of God, do not be afraid.

Listen to the Word of the Lord

Who promises to be with us in every age.

Spread this Word to those who live without hope.

Live this Word as people who know God-with-us,

Emmanuel

And now let the face of God shine upon you

To bless you and save you

From all doubt and danger;

Through Jesus Christ, now and always.

Amen.

## Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Wagner

*\*if comfortably able, please stand*

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Accompanist:** Joan Loewen

**Cantata:** Chancel Choir; Director, Doug Garner;

Narrator, Bill Sisson

**Liturgist:** Annalise Haines **Next Week:** Nick Smith

**Acolyte:** Abi Riden

**Children's Chat:** Miranda Shoop **Next Week:** Elaine Siddons

**Ushers:** Lonnie Griffith (head usher), Christopher Griffith,

Harold & Gerri Aitkin, Larry & Janie Welshans

**Children's Church:** Cantata; No children's church

**Next Week:** Elaine Siddons

**Infants/Preschool:** Annalise Haines **Next Week:** Leah Riden

**Deacon for the Month:** Janie Welshans

**Counters:** Ed Curry & Lonnie Griffith

**Next Week:** Bill Sisson & John Gregory

## **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.

**ADVENT RESOURCES:** Whether you like to color, craft or just cozy up with some good reading material, we've got something to encourage you through this Advent season! Stop at the table in the back of the sanctuary and take a look!

**HONORING PASTOR ZORN:** Please join us next **Sunday, December 29**, during our service and at the community luncheon as we honor Pastor Zorn's dedicated years of service as our Minister of Visitation. Cards of encouragement/congratulations will be collected.

**A FAMILY EPIPHANY EVENT:** Come celebrate the arrival of the wise men to Bethlehem and the transforming presence of Jesus, **Saturday, January 4 from 10 AM – noon**. Our time will include: The Magi story re-enacted and four stations featuring a star craft, creation of a home blessing box, experiencing the story through our senses, and a play dough activity will be provided. Before our time ends, we will enjoy star cookies, a King's cake, and camel food! There will also be a photo booth for fun pictures. All ages are welcome!

**CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE:** The Fellowship Committee has provided a tree in the narthex and invite you to write on the provided ornaments the name of someone on your mind this season. Someone who has died; someone who lives far away; someone who is hurting; or maybe someone for whom you are grateful.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING** of the congregation and corporation of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2020. Reports for the **Annual Report are due by January 10**.

**2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the narthex.

**GREEN CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES** have been designated for the Preschool Scholarship Fund.

## **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**

Bring someone a candle today and light it for him or her. Tell the person that you pray the light of Christ may warm his or her heart today. Fear not – don't hide His light under a bushel!

### **A Moment for Reflection**

In what areas of your life do you need Christ's light to dawn?

*Late on a sleepy, star-spangled night,  
those angels peeled back the sky just like you would  
tear open a sparkling Christmas present.  
Then, with light and joy pouring out of Heaven like  
water through a broken dam, they began to shout  
and sing the message that baby Jesus had been  
born. The world had a Savior! The angels called it  
"Good News," and it was.*

Larry Libby

Feel free to share some thoughts on the reflection question with Pastor Sarah by emailing her at [pastorsedgwick@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsedgwick@gmail.com)



## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

### **SUNDAY, December 22**

9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Library

10:30 AM Worship Service – Chancel Choir Cantata

### **MONDAY, December 23**

11:30 AM Prayer Ministry

### **TUESDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve**

7:00 PM Candlelight/Communion Service

### **WEDNESDAY, December 25 Christmas Day**

Church office closed

### **SATURDAY, December 28**

1:00 PM Youth group & College-age Community Luncheon  
Prep – Church kitchen

### **SUNDAY, December 29**

9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Library

10:30 AM Worship Service

11:30 AM Community Luncheon – Baraca room

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### **GIVING REPORT AS OF 12/15/19**

Weekly Need: \$ 3,173.08      YTD Need:      \$ 158,662.00

Received:      \$ 2,694.00      YTD Received: \$ 155,806.61

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.