



November 29, 2020
1st Sunday of Advent



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Rev. Sarah Sedgwick
Rev. Robert Zorn, Pastor Emeritus

LEWISTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

The Hanging of the Greens is a service for the first Sunday in Advent. It is based on the English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands, a Christmas tree, and evergreens for Advent and Christmas. In a church setting, it readies the sanctuary (and church members) for the season.

~Respond by reading the words printed in **BOLD** during our worship together~

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

A: And also with you!

Welcome to our Zoom online worship service this morning. Today is November 29, 2020 and I am Rev. Sarah Sedgwick from Lewistown Presbyterian Church. Today we gather to prepare our hearts from the coming of Emmanuel – God with us – as we enter into the season of Advent.

We begin our service with a few announcements:

- We regret to inform everyone that we cannot accept orders for poinsettias. Anyone who has sent an order in will have their order and money returned as soon as possible. A few poinsettias will adorn our chancel area throughout Advent so that you can enjoy them in our worship videos.
- A great big thanks to the Fellowship and Worship and Music committees and their families who gathered briefly last Sunday to decorate the chancel area for Advent and Christmas. Today, in our service, we will view their hard work.
- The Mission and Evangelism Committee invites you to bless the life of a child this Christmas by participating in their project to provide one gift to each child involved in Backyard Ministries. You are invited to call Lynn Curry (717-250-5957) and sign up to provide a package of socks and a \$10 gift card to a specific child assigned to you.

- Today we are providing a take-out lunch to our community beginning at 11:30 AM. Please stop by the 3rd Street door and pick your lunch up, too.
- Tonight the youth group will be meeting by ZOOM at 6 PM using the Sunday worship code. All youth 6th to 12th grade are invited to attend virtually.

Let us worship God as we join together in the Call to Worship, led by Tara Merry.

Call to Worship

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

All: With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

All: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

All: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

All: By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

Leader: For in the story of Jesus we see revealed the transforming power of God. We are reminded anew of God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all of creation.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Meaning of the Service

Tara Merry

Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

insert

Call to Confession

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.

Join with me in the Prayer of Confession, followed by a time of silent confession.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

L: Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

Choral Anthem

Children's Chat

Sue Garner

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray for illumination as we hear the reading of God's Word: Holy God, open your Word. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation that our eyes may be enlightened, and we may know the hope to which we have been called; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Significance of the Colors (Paraments)

Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:1

Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (insert)

God Will Send a Light to the Nations (Advent Candles)

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:1-3

Candle lighter: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ.

A: Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Verses 1-4 (insert)

The Prophet Declares A Child Will be Born (Evergreen)

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The Mystery of the Incarnation (Christmas tree/ornaments)

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-5, 9-14

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

Let us join together in blessing the Christmas Tree as we read a prayer in unison:

Loving God, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whose path of justice and inclusivity lights a path for all who follow him. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nativity Scene

Hymn: Away in a Manger (insert)

Prayers of the People 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; Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Invitation: God has enriched us in every way – in speech, knowledge, and spiritual gifts. From the fellowship of Jesus Christ, we are sent out to share with thanksgiving what we have received. Let us then give with joyful hearts.

Prayer of Dedication: Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 5-7) insert

Charge and Blessing

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection.
For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

The good news of Advent is this:

Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

We will welcome Christ into our hearts.

We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.

We will go forth from this place in hope.

May God strengthen us to the end;
Christ draw near to our very gates;
and the Holy Spirit awaken our spirits;
until we greet the day of our
Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Postlude

SERVING IN WORSHIP
<p>Accompanist: Joan Loewen & Danny Garner Worship Assistant: Tara Merry Next Week: TBD Children's Chat: Sue Garner Next Week: Pastor Sarah</p>

Giving Report as of 11/22/20

Weekly Need: \$3,056.17

YTD Need: \$143,639.44

Received \$851.00

YTD Received: \$134,801.76

Weekly Reflection Page

Please use these questions and prayers throughout this coming week.

Questions for Reflection

Do you struggle with waiting? How can you practice this difficult discipline during the Advent season?

Morning Prayer

Thank you, God, for the gift of life today. I give thanks that your face shines upon me, for you are my salvation. Strengthen me for whatever lies ahead. Grant me the spiritual gifts of peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness, for I want to show your love, in word and deed to others. In Christ's name. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Though you have told us to keep awake, O God, you have also blessed us with rest and sleep. Grant me such rest in the hours ahead that I awaken with eager longing for a new day, ready for you to be revealed in mundane moments and ordinary encounters. By your grace prepare me, whether awake or asleep, to greet you. All times are in your hands, and I, too, am in your hands, faithful God. In Jesus' name I rest and pray. Amen.

PRAYER GUIDE

Our Community

- For those who are struggling with isolation; a decrease in paid work hours; homelessness; addiction & forms of abuse.

Our Nation

- Elected officials; peace in our nation and world; COVID-19

For Our Ministry Leaders

- Rev. Sarah Sedgwick, staff, deacons, elders, & volunteers

Prayer Requests

- April Paige; hospitalized last week
- Bill Sisson: recovery from surgery on Oct. 20
- Brad Siddons: weekly transfusions; cancer treatment; bacterial infection
- Ryan Dixon: cancer
- Denise Beltzner: scleroderma and lupus
- Linda Miller: now at home; continued prayers for healing
- Debbie: breast cancer
- William Smith, 16 yr. old: cancer
- Curt Warfel; health concerns
- Rich Harper; chemo treatments
- Megan Earnest: ongoing health concerns
- George Garner: terminally ill
- Levi Foltz: 2-year-old with a tumor

Those in Care Facilities

- Valley View: Mary Lou Ingram, Jack Irrgang
- Ohesson: Etta Majestic, Shirley Ferguson, Lavonne Ball
- Shirley Home (Shirleysburg): Carl Knepp
- Hearthside (State College): Mary McClellan
- Locust Grove Retirement Village: Doris Hoverter

Those in the Military

01/LT Allison (Harklerode) Conforte, BM3 Tyler M. Earnest, SFC William Corson, SGT John Dietz, SSGT Tyler Treaster

Our Mission Partners

Shelter Services, Habitat for Humanity, Backyard Ministries
Heart 2 Heart Program, LUMINA Center, Leah & Francis Daytec
(Philippines), Camp Krislund, Adventures in Mission &
BuildinGuate

Families of the Week

- Ryan, Tara & Evie Merry
- Gwen Knudson

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - 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,

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.

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;

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.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery-where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. [Refrain]

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

7 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. [Refrain]

115 Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D)
F

(G)
B \flat

(D)
F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7)
C7

(D)
F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G)
B \flat

(D)
F

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7)
C7

(D)
F

(Em)
Gm

(A7)
C7

(D)
F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.

SUNDAY WORSHIP Time: November 29, 2020 9:30 AM, Kidz Zoom Zone; 10:00 AM Fellowship Time; 10:30 AM Worship
FROM YOUR COMPUTER OR LAPTOP – CLICK ON THE HYPERLINK BELOW This is the most convenient option

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5766618472>

When prompted Enter Password: 4561

KIDZ ZOOM – CLICK ON THE HYPERLINK BELOW

Join Zoom Meeting for Kidz Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88365779417?pwd=RktDS0Qxcmk5eUZZaEpoazBhbXQ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 883 6577 9417

Passcode: 9643

ONE TAP MOBILE (iPhone) Be sure you have the Zoom App first

Meeting ID: 576 661 8472

Password: 4561

DIAL BY USING YOUR LANDLINE

Call 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 576 661 8472 followed by #

Password: 4561 followed by #

Questions about connectivity? Contact Elder Susan Ferguson at sf615@gmail.com or 717-250-5774.

You can NOW watch Sunday morning worship on YouTube!
Go to www.youtube.com and search for "Lewistown Presbyterian Church." Sunday worship videos will be posted by
10:30 AM Sundays.