



**December 13, 2020**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Sermon:**  
**Prepare the Way: He Shows His Favor**

**Scripture:**  
**Isaiah 61:1-4; Luke 1:39-59**

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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

~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 online worship service this morning. Today is December 13, 2020 and I am Rev. Sarah Sedgwick from Lewistown Presbyterian Church. Today is the third Sunday of Advent and we are glad that you join us in worship today.

We begin our service with a few announcements:

- The Mission and Evangelism Committee invites you to bless the life of a child this Christmas by participating in their project to provide two gifts 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 value gift (*please note: it is not a gift card*) to a specific child assigned to you.
- A brief congregational meeting will be held on Zoom immediately following our worship service on December 20. The Session will present the 2021 church budget, 2021 Pastor's Terms of Call, and changes to the church bylaws. We will receive a report from our Church Nominating Committee on their nominees for elected church positions. All members are encouraged to attend!
- Also, during our service on December 20, we invite you to wear your Christmas colors and favorite holiday jewelry and come "decked out" to online worship. Dress as merrily as you like!
- Cole Cullen is looking for your past pictures in front of the church Christmas tree or decorated chancel area. These pictures will be used during our Christmas Eve worship service on Zoom and YouTube. Email your picture to Cole at [nelluceloc@gmail.com](mailto:nelluceloc@gmail.com).
- Remember your STAR Word you received last January? Pastor Sarah wants to continue this tradition in January and

is working on a way for all of us to do so, even if we are worshipping online. If you can safely deliver your STAR back to the church this month, we would appreciate it. You can place them in the church mailbox or drop them off in the church office. Pastor Sarah can also do porch pick-ups.

- The youth group will be meeting tonight by ZOOM at 6 PM using the Sunday worship code. All youth 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend virtually.

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

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

Leader: In a world of despair, where depression rates run high, where there has been so much sadness and loss, God, we call upon you to come.

**All: In a world where joy is a distant memory, we call upon you, Great God of Joy, to come.**

Leader: In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Joy into our world. We await the birth of the Anointed One, the Promised Child, who comes into our lives in a new way.

**All: Come, Messiah, Come, and Save Us.** (Light the pink candle)

Leader: Dear God, we pray for the joy that is found in Jesus, that those who seek it may truly find it. May we celebrate in the joy found in You. Amen.

**Hymn**                      Savior of the Nations, Come                      insert

### **Call to Confession**

Old habits and new wrongs wear ruts through our lives and relationships. But God is able to restore us. Like water coursing through a desert, the waters of baptism flow through us, reminding us that we belong to God and are raised to new life.

Please join with me in reading the Prayer of Confession, followed by a time of silent confession.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, you love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil? You have given us the gift of your Spirit; why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us? You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself; why, then, do we despise and ignore what we have heard from you? You have sent the**

**light of the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light? Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### **Silent Prayers of Confession**

L: Amen.

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us!  
Even if we have gone out in tears, God brings us home shouting for joy. Thanks be to God: We are forgiven!

### **Choral Anthem**

#### **Children's Chat**

Maryann Haines

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Let us pray together as we prepare to hear God's holy word: Holy One, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. Amen.

### **Scriptures**

Isaiah 61:1-4; Luke 1:39-59

### **Sermon**

Prepare the Way: He Shows His Favor

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us stand and affirm our faith together through the reading of God's Word:

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

As we prepare our hearts to bring our intercessions to our Savior, please remember those who remain listed in our prayer guide. Let us pray to the One who knows our every need.

**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:** Joining Mary’s joyful song, our souls proclaim the greatness of the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. With humble and grateful hearts, let us bring our offerings to God.

**Prayer of Dedication:** Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all circumstances, for you are always with us. Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others. With our whole being, spirit, and soul and body, we rejoice in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Hymn**

I Love to Tell the Story

insert

**Charge and Blessing**

God’s favor has been poured out upon us.

Rejoice always and look for ways to respond to this favor by giving God glory.

And may the God of peace call forth your complete dedication; may the light of Christ shine upon you; and the Holy Spirit fill you completely, now and forever. Alleluia! Amen!

**Postlude**

<p><b>SERVING IN WORSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Accompanist:</b> Joan Loewen <b>Worship Assistant:</b> Ruth Fisher <b>Next Week:</b> Susan Ferguson <b>Children’s Chat:</b> Maryann Haines <b>Next Week:</b> Ginny Westover</p>
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**Giving Report as of 12/6/20**

Weekly Need: \$3,056.17  
Received \$4,715.50

YTD Need: \$149,751.78  
YTD Received: \$141,157.26



**Dear Church Family,**

**We want to say thank you to many of you who have returned your 2021 Pledge Card to the church. Your faithful response helps us determine an appropriate budget for the coming year.**

**Based on returned pledge cards, our budgeted income from tithes and offerings will be \$23,000 less than in 2020.**

**If you have not sent in your 2021 Pledge Card, there is still time to do so. Please mail it to the church or place it in the church mailbox outside the office door on Brown St.**

**Together, we can use the gifts God has generously given to us to share the love of Jesus Christ in our church and community. Thank you for your faithfulness to the work God has called us to do as the Body of Christ.**

**God bless you!**

**The Stewardship Committee – Ruth Fisher, chair, Ed Curry, and Susan Ferguson**

## **Weekly Reflection Page**

*Please use these questions and prayers throughout this coming week.*

### **Questions for Reflection**

What are some tangible examples of God's favor in your life?

### **Morning Prayer**

Light of the world, you greet me this morning with new possibilities. Shine brightly, I pray, until I see into the dark places of this world, and into the dark places of my own life. I want to follow you in paths of justice, speak up with you for liberty, and bend with you toward the brokenhearted, even the broken places within myself. I trade in my faint spirit for your mantle of praise and with my whole being I will rejoice in you. Amen.

### **Evening Prayer**

Restore me, O God, from the rush of the day. Let me dream this night of all the great things you have done. As the darkness comes and these little lights in my house glow, I give thanks for the greater Light no darkness can overcome. To anyone who mourns or sits in prison or fears danger this night, bring the peace that only you can give. You are faithful, and I know you will do this.  
In Christ. 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**

- Tom Gross; hospitalized with pneumonia and flu
- Shirley Ferguson; Covid-19
- Kevin Kodish's mother, Helen; Covid-19
- Bill Sisson: recovery from surgery
- Brad Siddons: weekly transfusions; cancer treatment
- 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**

- Luke, Kerry, Addie & Oakley Lake
- Jack & Karen McCurdy



## Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1. Savior of the nations, come;  
virgin's son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
that the Lord chose such a birth.**
- 2. From God's heart the Savior speeds;  
back to God his pathway leads;  
out to vanquish death's command,  
back to reign at God's right hand.**
- 3. Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.**
- 4. Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity praise we sing  
eternally.**

## I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP** Time: December 13, 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 [slf615@gmail.com](mailto:slf615@gmail.com) or 717-250-5774.

You can NOW watch Sunday morning worship on YouTube!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq29HB7LxyNOrQE5HZ2PUiA>

or go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for "Lewistown Presbyterian Church." Sunday worship videos will be posted by 10:30 am, Sundays.