



LEWISTOWN CHURCH
Presbyterian

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

**December 20, 2020
4th Sunday of Advent**

CHANCEL CHOIR CANTATA



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Rev. Sarah Sedgwick
Rev. Robert Zorn, Pastor Emeritus

LEWISTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo

Lani Smith

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 20, 2020 and I am Rev. Sarah Sedgwick from Lewistown Presbyterian Church. Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent and we are glad that you join us in worship today.

We begin our service with a few announcements:

- A brief congregational meeting will be held on Zoom immediately following our worship service TODAY. 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!
- Please email or send a picture of your family in front of the sanctuary Christmas tree, from a past year, to Cole Cullen by this Tuesday morning. These pictures will be used during our Christmas Eve worship service on Zoom and YouTube. Email your picture to Cole at 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.
- Shirley Setzler would like to thank those who sent her a Christmas card this year!
- The youth group will be meeting tonight 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 Susan Ferguson.

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: In a world where churches lie empty, where doors are shut, and people seem to have no room for religion anymore, God, we call upon you to come.

All: In a world where so many claim not to believe anymore, we call upon you, El Shaddai, God Almighty, to come.

Leader: In this season of Advent, we wait for Your Presence to be felt in our lives again. We await the birth of Jesus, the Savior of All, who comes into our lives in a new way.

All: Come, Messiah, Come, and Save Us. (All four advent candles are lit)

Leader: Let us pray: Dear God, we pray that our faith may be renewed once again, and may we relive the wonder of your love in our lives. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

In the Bleak Midwinter

insert

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to the One whose mercy endures from generation to generation. Please join with me in the Prayer of Confession, following by a time of silent confession:

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

L: Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

Children's Chat

Ginny Westover

Chancel Choir Cantata

Listen-guest *clarinetist*, *Phil Loewen*

Reading-*Isaiah 40:3-5*

The Shepherd's Carol

Reading-*Luke 2:8-15*

The Annunciation

Reading-*Luke 1:26-33*

Angels and Shepherds

Reading-*Isaiah 60: 1-3, 19-20*

Longing for the Light

Reading-*Psalms 117:2*

Joyful, All Ye Nations Rise

Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

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: At this time of year, the abundance of some and the needs of so many stand in marked contrast. As we bring each week our tithes and offerings, may Christ's heart rejoice and the needs of others be tended.

Prayer of Dedication: Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace; in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High insert

Charge and Blessing

Do not be afraid, for God is with you
and will strengthen you in your journey
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever!
May the blessing of God, who creates,
redeems, and restores, be with you now and always.

Postlude Angels We Have Heard on High Burkhardt

SERVING IN WORSHIP
Accompanist: Joan Loewen Worship Assistant: Susan Ferguson Chancel Choir Director: Doug Garner Cantata Reader: Bill Sisson Children's Chat: Ginny Westover Worship Assistant, December 24: Cole Cullen Worship Assistant Next Week: Doug Garner Children's Chat Next Week: Elaine Siddons

Called Congregational Meeting
By Zoom (following worship service)
Members encouraged to attend!

Giving Report as of 12/13/20

Weekly Need: \$3,056.17	YTD Need: \$152,807.95
Received: \$3,820.00	YTD Received: \$144,977.26

Weekly Reflection Page

Please use these questions and prayers throughout this coming week.

Questions for Reflection

In light of the challenges of this year of COVID-19, what does the promise of the birth of the Christ Child mean to you?

Morning Prayer

I give thanks this day for the gift of Christ and the privilege to follow in this way. This is the greatest life-giving treasure that I am called to steward; may I share this as freely as I have received it from the One who gave himself for the life of the world. May I be continually awakened to your love this day. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Lord, as I come to you seeking rest this night, I pray that all may find a home in you, be disturbed by no one, and be free of the afflictions of the evil one, for you, O God, are mighty to save. 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

For Those Who Grieve

- Kathy Boop and Family; Larry Boop died December 14
- Family & Friends of Pat McNeal, who died December 11

Prayer Requests

- Tom Gross: home from the hospital, staying with his brother
- Shirley Ferguson: COVID-19
- Bill Sisson: continued healing and strength
- 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

- Ali McCurdy
- Bill & Donna Lake

In the Bleak Midwinter 144

1 In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost - y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

‡ in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 ‡ wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

SUNDAY WORSHIP Time: December 20, 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 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 and search for "Lewistown Presbyterian Church." Sunday worship videos will be posted by 10:30 am, Sundays.