



December 6, 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent

Sermon:
Prepare the Way: He Is Among Us

Scripture:
Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 1:26-38

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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 Zoom online worship service this morning. Today is December 6, 2020 and I am Rev. Sarah Sedgwick from Lewistown Presbyterian Church. Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we are glad that you join us in worship today.

We begin our service with a few announcements:

- During today's worship, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Please have near you some bread and juice so we may participate in the sacrament together.
- 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!
- 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.

- 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 Sue Garner.

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: In a world of war, violence and abuse, where families live in shelters and children grow up in fear, God, we call upon you to come.

All: In a world where peace seems to be so far away, we call upon you, Prince of Peace, to come.

Leader: In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Peace into our world. We await the birth of Emmanuel, God with us, who comes into our lives in a new way.

All: Come, Messiah, Come, and Save Us (*the 2nd purple candle is lit*)

Leader: Dear God, we pray for the peace that only You can bring through your Son, Jesus the Christ. May we walk in the paths of peace. Amen.

Hymn Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates insert

Call to Confession

God does not want anyone to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance. Therefore, let us confess our sins, for God's salvation is at hand.

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

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

L: Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

L: Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God. Alleluia! Amen!

Choral Anthem

Children's Chat

Pastor Sarah

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray together as we prepare to hear God's holy word:

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that the good news of this age may be proclaimed through your word, which stands forever. Amen.

Scriptures

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

Prepare the Way: He Is Among Us

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

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

Blessing of the Elements & Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Invitation: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. May your righteousness go before God and prepare a pathway for the Lord. Let us offer our lives and labor to God and fulfill our vows to the Most High.

Prayer of Dedication: Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ your steadfast love and faithfulness have met and your righteousness and peace have kissed. May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need and prepare the way of our salvation.

Hymn

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

insert

Charge and Blessing

The day of the Lord is coming;
therefore, strive to live in peace,
for God's salvation is near.

And may the blessing of God,
Eternal Majesty, Living Word, and
Holy Comforter, be with you now and always.
Amen.

Postlude

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| SERVING IN WORSHIP |
| Accompanist: Joan Loewen Worship Assistant: Sue Garner Next Week: Ruth Fisher Children's Chat: Pastor Sarah Next Week: Maryann Haines |

Giving Report as of 11/29/20

Weekly Need: \$3,056.17
Received \$1,630.00

YTD Need: \$146,695.61
YTD Received: \$136,431.76

Weekly Reflection Page

Please use these questions and prayers throughout this coming week.

Questions for Reflection

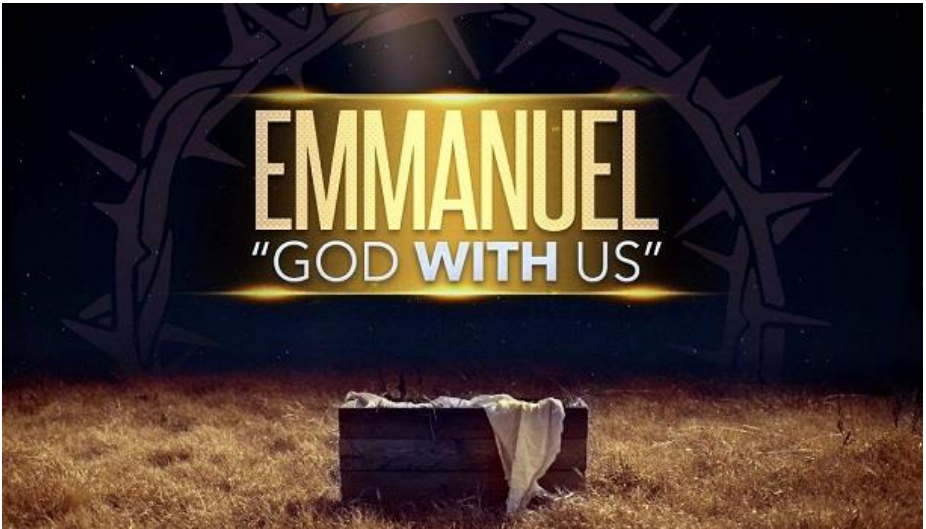
What is YOUR mission? Every follower of Jesus is called to engage with God's mission in the world. We don't only celebrate a baby in the manger. We follow our Master out of our places of comfort into the lives of the broken.

Morning Prayer

Lord, how I love this season of new beginnings, the opportunity to turn toward you and start again. Empower me to be a messenger of good news, and a leveling influence along the way, as I seek to be one with you in smoothing out the rough places I encounter. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Lord, you have comforted me throughout this day and rescued me from my exile. Where I have flourished, I give you thanks; where I have erred; I ask your forgiveness. Protect me through the night that I may rest in your realm of peace where righteousness makes a home.



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

- Shirley Ferguson; Covid-19
- Kevin Kodish's mother, Helen; Covid-19
- Bill Sisson: recovery from surgery on Oct. 20
- 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

- Kevin & Shelly Kodish
- Pat McNeal

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

1 Let us tal-ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a

4
 shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;
 sets the tone, teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

7 *Refrain*
 Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

10
 earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

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



SUNDAY WORSHIP Time: December 6, 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.