**December 18, 2016 8:30 & 10:45**

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, like Mary, we are filled with expectation. Remember this feeling, as Christmas Day approaches. Only then may we notice the amazing miracle of Christmas anew; only then may we receive the blessings of Christ’s presence with joy and hope.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

**Hymn 219 What child is this** *Greensleeves*

**Hymn 197 Ye who claim the faith of Jesus** *Julion*

**Greeting**

 Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

 **People: That the King of glory may come in.** *Psalm 24:7*

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

**People: For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;**

**the night is far gone, the day is near.**

Leader: Let us then lay aside the works of darkness

**People: And put on the armor of light.** *Romans 13:11-12*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymn of Praise 233 Cold December flies away** (standing) *Lo Desembre congelat*

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

**Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son.**

**Save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** *Church of Scotland, 20th Century*

**… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** (seated) **The Angels’ Message: Obey**  *Joel Raney*

8:30 Brad, Laura, Emily and Evan Shoff

 10:45 Tom & Kathy Michael

 Reader: During Advent we remember God’s faithfulness shown to us.

 **People:** **Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.**

Reader: During Advent we remember God’s humility set before us.

 **People:** **Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.**

Reader: During Advent we remember God’s commands, spoken to us.

 **People:** **Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.**

Reader: During Advent we remember God’s incredible love shared with us.

 **People:** **Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.**

*(Lighting of the Candle)*

 **Sung Response: Listen to the angels, hear the message they bring;**

 **Telling the news of a coming King;**

 **filling the world with hope and good cheer.**

 **Jesus, Emmanuel, God is near.**

**Closing Prayer**

**The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

 People: And also with you.

Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

 This, this is where children belong,

 welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

 Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

 This is where children belong.

 WORDS AND MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

 (All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward.)

After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the Sanctuary near the end of the service, and parents may meet them.

Scripture Reading 8:30 Judi Phelps

 10:45 John Conti

 A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 7:10-16 The sign of Emmanuel

**Hymn 230** (seated) **O little town of Bethlehem** (stanza 3) *St. Louis*

 **How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;**

 **so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.**

 **No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,**

 **where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospel

 Matthew 1:18-25 The birth of Jesus Christ

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**Sermon** “A Surprise Adoption” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Offertory Duet** 8:30Rise up, shepherd, and follow *arranged by Mark Hays*

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 *Mark Sirett*

 Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums,

 nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears.

 Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by his gown,

but his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee. Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.

**Hymn 219 What child is this** (stanza 3)*Greensleeves*

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to won him;**

 **the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.**

 **This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;**

 **haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Hymn 240** 8:30 **Hark! The herald angels sing**  (standing)*Mendelssohn*

**Tableaux** 10:45

 **First Lesson** Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem Luke 2: 1-5

 **Carol 230** O little town of Bethlehem (stanza 1) *St. Louis*

 **Second Lesson** Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus Luke 2: 6-7

 **Anthem** Away in a manger*Jeffrey Van*

 **Third Lesson** Gabriel announces to the shepherds Luke 2: 8-12

 **Carol 238** Angels we have heard on high (stanza 2) *Gloria*

**Fourth Lesson** The angels Luke 2: 13-14

**Carol 238** Angels we have heard on high (stanza 1)*Gloria*

**Anthem** Do you know the song the angels sang *Frank Ferko*

**Fifth Lesson** The shepherds visit the Christ Child Luke 2: 15-20

 **Anthem** Go, tell it on the mountain*Frank Ferko*

**Sixth Lesson** The wise men are led by the star to Jesus Matthew 2: 7-12

 **Anthem** We three kings *arranged by Stephen Paulus*

**Carol 234** O come, all ye faithful (stanzas 1-3) *Adeste fideles*

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Benediction**

 Leader: A young woman is with child and shall bear a son. He shall be called Emmanuel

 **People: We go forth with anticipation and longing. Share the good news, Emmanuel is coming. We hear, believe, accept and obey the Advent promise that God is with us.**

**Congregational Response #211** *Veni Emmanuel* **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel**.

**Today’s Services**

**Special music at 8:30** is provided by John Esaias and Robert Richards, members of our Chancel Choir.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir; bass soloist Robert Mallery; and harpist Julia Scott, whose presence is made possible through contributions to the Friends of Music Fund.

**Greeters 8:30** Bob and Chris Murray  **10:45**  Bill and Lavisa Ward

**Acolytes** Juliana Slater and Anna Rhoton

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons** Would you like to share this morning’s sermon with a friend or did you miss a Sunday? Catch up on the messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons from the past three months are at http:// mlumc.buzzsprout.com. You can navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, www.mlumc.org, through the app, Stitcher or through iTunes.

**Flower Donations** Honor or remember a loved one or friend with a Sunday flower arrangement donation. Contact Sharon Slater, 412-343-1137

**Tableaux Participants**

Readers Amy Brown and Dick DiBella

The Holy Family Eric, Courtney and Emily Schmidt

Gabriel Andy Schultz

Angels Addison Alexander, Agnes Alexander, Julie Aneja, Hannah Baker, Samantha Baker, Rachel Cerneskie, Fiona Curran, Rachel Dale, Andrea DeLuca, Emily Shoff, Juliana Slater, Lydia Slater

Shepherds Jacob Cerneskie, Liam DeLuca, Xavier Sanchez, Evan Shoff

Kings Jacob Dale, Russell Dale, Ethan Von Hedemann

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Isaiah 7:10-16**

10Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. 13Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

**Matthew 1:18-25**

18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” 24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Joseph Festor, UPMC Montefiore

Henry McKnight, St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Gloria Barber, Providence Point

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

May Frederick , Concordia Health Care

Mary Garber, Providence Point

Susan Lichtenfels, Curahealth Pittsburgh,

 Oakdale

Pat Seitz, Concordia Health Care

Andy Smith, Concordia Health Care

Tim Watters, Baptist Homes

**Convalescing at Home**

Bob Fairgrieve, Jean George, Earl Killian

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Capt. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick
PFC Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda
Lt. Col. Mark Patterson

Lt. Com. Scott Patterson

Lt. Col. Sean Patterson
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**Thank You**

 Holiday greetings from the Lichtenfels Family.
 We would like to thank our church family for keeping us in your prayers and providing delicious meals. We are so very grateful for your support and love.
 Sue continues her stay at CuraHealth’s facility (formerly Kindred) in Oakdale. Doctors are working to find the best strategy to heal her wound and get her home. Unfortunately, even after returning home, she will be limited to bed rest to eliminate pressure from the wound area. She remains in good spirits and keeps busy with books and volunteer work on the computer.
 Thank you again for continuing to keep us in your prayers. We wish all of you a blessed New Year.
 Warmest regards,
 Bob, Sue, and Maya

**From the family of Joan Harden**

Thank you one and all!

This church and congregation were such a vital part of Joan Harden’s life for over 50 years. Your love and support through inquiry, cards, prayers and gifts have meant so very much.

 With love and thankfulness,

 The Family of Joan Harden:

                Mary and Clark Remington

                Stephanie and John Martin

                Children & Grandchildren

**Birthday Wishes**

Gerry Oelschlager is having a 100th birthday on Wednesday, December 21. Send your cards and wishes:

Mrs. Gerry Oelschlager

200 Adams Ave.

#209 PC

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 THRU SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**Hosting Family Promise through Sunday, December 25**

**SUNDAY 12/18**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café Various/Brookline Parlor

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 5 pm Dinner and Caroling Wesley Hall and Neighborhood

 6:30 pm Boy Scout Board of Reviews Various

**MONDAY 12/19**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm German Class Welcome Center

 7:30 pm Community Events and Outreach Committee Library

**TUESDAY 12/20**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Court of Honor Asbury Center

**THURSDAY 12/22**

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 12/23 OFFICES CLOSED**

 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Bear Den Asbury Center

**SATURDAY 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE – OFFICES CLOSED**

 5 pm Candlelight Service for Children and Families Sanctuary

 8 pm Candlelight Traditional Service Sanctuary

 Wiggle room for parents & children, 5 & 8 pm services Brookline Parlor

 11 pm Candlelight Traditional Service Sanctuary

***Join us on Sunday, December 25th for a Christmas Day Service, in the Sanctuary. at 10:45 am only. There will be no nursery services and no Sunday school hour.***