**December 3, 2017 8:30 & 10:45**

**1st Sunday of Advent**

Advent is a season of waiting and watching – a time of being alert and believing in the fulfillment of prophecy. The Promised One is coming. Stay alert and watch!

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

8:30 **Hymnal 204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel** *McGee*

 **Hymnal 210 All earth is waiting** (stanzas 1 and 2)*Taulè*

10:45 O Come, O Come Emmanuel *13th C. Plainsong, arr. Boude Moore*

Grace Notes:  Mary Paine, Linda Minnotte, Andy Seay​

**Greeting**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**People: Declare God’s glory among the nations; declare his wondrous works among all people.** *Psalm 96:1, 3*

**Announcements**

**Choral Introit** 10:45 Alleluia! The King of glory shall come in. Alleluia! *Karle Erickson*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: The days are coming when God will fulfill the promise made to our ancestors.

**People: A righteous branch of David’s lineage shall come forth.**

Leader: There will be justice and righteousness in the land.

**People: This is our salvation.**

Leader: Let us worship the God of promises and signs, with eyes to see the signs of God’s promises.

*The Abingdon Worship Annual*

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 196 Come, thou long-expected Jesus** (standing) *Hyfrydol*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison, standing)

**O God, the times and signs are confusing. During this time of worship, help us know your ways, and see clearly the coming of the Promised One. Lead us in your truth and teach us. For we wait with hopeful expectation: to see, to know, to believe. To you we lift our souls in trust and love, knowing you will hold them in your loving hands. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3129** *Aihu*

**God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,**

 **teach us, deflect us, Christ, reconnect us, using us gently and making us one.**

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

**Advent Candle Lighting**  8:30 Scott, Natalie and Madeline Miller

 10:45 Barbara, Luke, Cassidy and Cameron Grabowski

**Worship & Song 3047 God Almighty, we are waiting** (stanza 1, seated) *Hyfrydol*

 **God Almighty, we are waiting for a Savior to appear.**

 **Meet us in our desert journey; give a sign that you are near:**

 **burning bushes, parted waters, food a-plenty in the wild.**

 **As we look for signs and wonders, help us see you in a child.**

**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** Paulette Colonna

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

After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 through 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.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Handbell Anthem** 10:45   Let all mortal flesh keep silence Promise Bells and Chapel Bells *17th C. French folk tune, arr. Karen Thompson*

Scripture Reading Scott Miller 8:30 Judy Moeller 10:45

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Thanksgiving for God’s Grace

**Pastoral Prayer**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Celtic Alleluia** **Alleluia** (sing 4 times, standing) *O’Carroll and Walker*

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospel (standing)

 Mark 13:24-37 The day and hour unknown

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory** 8:30

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 *John Helgen*

 Sing soft to this expectant earth, but not of grandeur nor of gold:

 Sing lowliness, the tender birth of unexpected magnitude.

 The world wields bronze, the world wills war,

 but gentle justice sang before to show true power, to shower might,

 the might of God-filled human heart,

 come Christ, come Love, to waiting earth and bring your future now to birth.

 *Susan Palo Cherwien*

**Doxology Hymnal 97** (standing) Tune: #688 *Ar hyd y nos*

**For the fruits of this creation, thanks be to God;**

 **for good gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;**

 **for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,**

 **future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “Coming Soon: Watch & Wait” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

Worship & Song 3170 **What Feast of Love** (stanza 1, seated)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God..

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

 Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words. . . )*

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

 Musical Setting #3172-a***,*** Worship & Song

 **People:** **Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words . . .)*

As we proclaim the mystery of faith.

 Musical Setting #3172-b***,*** Worship & Song

**People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words . . .)*

 Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

 all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

 **People: Amen.**

 Musical Setting #3172-c***,*** Worship & Song

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

 During the distribution of the elements at 10:45 you are invited to sing the first three stanzas of hymns beginning with #184.

**Prayer following Communion** (in unison)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 206 I want to walk as a child of the light** (standing)*Houston*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by Joyce McGill in memory of Joe.

**The altar flowers** are given by our MLUMC Health Ministry team as a warm thank you to Stephanie Lowe for her years of coordinating our Rosebud Ministry and to Rev. Earl and Deborah Killian for their years of coordinating our Samaritan Ministry

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Grace Notes; the Chancel Choir with pianist Cori DeLuca; and the Promise Bells and Chapel Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz.

**Greeters 8:30**  Marda Katshir **10:45**  Robert Simonton **Acolytes** Anna Rhoton and Max Siegert

**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 can be found at http:// mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Flower Donations** Honor or remember a loved one or friend with a Sunday flower arrangement donation. Contact Lizzie Diller, 412-860-3614.

**Online Pledge and Giving** If you have not completed your pledge, you can do so by submitting your pledge via our website. Visit: <https://www.mlumc.org/giving/pledge>. You can get to this page by clicking "Pledge" from the Giving dropdown in the top navigation menu.

In addition to our direct debit giving option that allows you to make contributions directly from your bank account, Mount Lebanon UMC is happy to also provide online giving. This option allows you to give without the need of writing checks or worrying about cash donations. You can make a donation using your mobile device by texting “**MLUMC”** to phone number **73256** or use our online donation website.\* Our online donation website allows you to make one-time donations, designate your gift for a particular cause and also set up automatic contributions with an account.

To make a donation using our website, visit [www.mlumc.org/giving](http://www.mlumc.org/giving) on your home computer or mobile device where you’ll find more information and a link to get started!

\* Standard text messaging rates may apply.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Mark 13:24-37**

24“But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**2017 Advent Devotional in English and German** Each year the W. PA United Methodist Conference and Eastern German Conference create daily Advent and Christmas devotionals for use in our homes and churches. You can read and reflect on the devotions, download and copy them from this address on the W PA Conference website: <http://www.wpaumc.org/newsdetail/49272>. A few print copies of the devotional are available on the literature tables in Sanner Chapel and in the Sanctuary narthex. Beginning next week and through the remainder of the season, two devotions will be printed in our bulletin each week.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Shirley Baker, Providence Point

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

Charles Hohing, Canonsburg Hosp. Rehab.

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Tim Watters, Baptist Home

**Convalescing at Home**

Mary Birks, Jean Boyer,

Mary Caldwell, David Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels,

Robert Murray, Betty Trout

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

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

**A Note of Gratitude**

*Dear Friends,*

 *Thank you, thank you, and thank you for the pastoral visits, many cards, prayers and food which I have received following my recent surgery. I really appreciated it all.*

 *I hope to be back with you soon.*

 *Mary Birks*

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 THRU SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9**

**SUNDAY 12/3**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30-10:30 am Kids’ Sunday School Room 204

 9:30-noon Nursery Room 204

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 12 pm Blood Pressure Screening Brookline Parlor

 12 pm Youth Choir Room 202

 5 pm Youth Group Asbury Center

**MONDAY 12/4**

6:30 pm Tiger Cub Scouts Epworth Chapel

7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

7 pm Church Council Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 12/5**

 6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Boy Scout Parents Epworth

**WEDNESDAY 12/6**

 6:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Kitchen

 9:30 am Advent Bible Study Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 12/7**

 8:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Kitchen

 9:30 am Hands and Hearts Epworth Chapel

 12 pm TNT Asbury Heights

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 12/8**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

 1:30 pm Memoirs Group Welcome Center

 7 pm Cub Scouts Arrow of Light Den Epworth

**SATURDAY 12/9**

 9 am Holiday Cookie & Gift Bazaar Asbury Center