**December 2, 2018 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 198 My soul gives glory to my God** (seated) *Morning Song*

10:45 Promise Bells: Still, still, still *arranged by Sandra Eithun*

**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! Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight his paths. *Karl 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 272 Sing of Mary, pure and lowly** (standing) *Raquel*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

O God, the times and signs are confusing. During this time of worship, help us to know your ways, and to 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 3119** (standing)

 **Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;** *Take, O take*

 **set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

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

**Advent Candle Lighting** 8:30 Dave and Paulette Colonna

 10:45 Mike and Mary Paine

**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.**

**Sacrament of Baptism (10:45)** p. 39

*Cora Jean McClintock,*

*daughter of Justin & Carey McClintock*

***Congregational Response:***

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life

and include *Cora Jean* now before you in your care?

**People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news
     and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround** *Cora Jean* **with a community of love and forgiveness,
     that she may grow in her service to others.**

**We will pray for her,
     that she may be a true disciple,**

 **who walks in the way that leads to life.**

**The Sign of Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

 **People: And also with you.**

**Gathering Song**

 **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.**

**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 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 The King of glory comes *Israeli Folk, arr. Hart Morris* The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices, open the gates before him, lift up your voices

Scripture Reading 8:30 Kathy Tremblay 10:45 Nathan Jara

 A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

 Jeremiah 33:14-16 A righteous branch from the line of David

**Response**

 Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** **Festival Alleluia** (standing) *James Chepponis*

 **Alleluia** (repeat 6 times)

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospel

 Luke 1:26-38 Jesus’ birth foretold

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

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

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 *text by Susan Palo Cherwien; music by David Cherwien*

 O Infinite Greatness, O Limitless Good, imbuing creation with glory and gold,

 Great God, with the angels proclaiming Your peace, we hallow Your name in this luminous feast: Gloria!

O Beautiful Mother, O Dwelling of God, in strength and in dignity you are enrobed;

 and shelter the Heart of the World at your breast, so magnify with us this luminous feast: Gloria!

 O Word Made Incarnate, O Sun of Delight, dispelling the dark with compassion and Light:

 Divine common hope of the poor and the least, we witness Your dawn on this luminous feast: Gloria!

 O Dwelling of Glory, O People of Morn, the Holy One ever desires to be born;

 so may we, like Mary, enfold God the Guest, and greet with rejoicing this luminous feast: Gloria!

**Hymnal 94 Doxology** (standing)*Lasst uns erfreuen*

 Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

 Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

 Praise God the source of all our gifts!

 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “The Journey: Mary of Nazareth” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Worship & Song 3169 You feed us, gentle Savior** (stanza 1, seated) *Merle’s Tune*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

 **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

 **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words . . .)* Therefore, with all your faithful people from every time and place we join the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

***[Musical Setting B, U.M. Hymnal, p. 18-19]***

**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.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words . . .)* As we affirm the mystery of faith:

***[Musical Setting B, U.M. Hymnal, p. 20]***

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

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words. . .)* Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, to all eternity.

***[Musical Setting B, U.M. Hymnal, p. 20]***

**Amen.**

**Giving the Bread & Cup**

**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 in the strength of your Spirit
we may give ourselves for others,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 626 Let all mortal flesh keep silence** (standing) *Picardy*

**Benediction**

**Hymnal 665 Go now in peace** (standing; sing as a canon with pulpit side first) *Go in peace*

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,**

 **may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the chancel** are given in loving memory of Dale E. Boyer by Jean and family

**The altar flowers** are given by Phillip and Nancy Koch in loving memory of Nancy Agnew

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Promise Bells, the Chapel Bells, and clarinetist Milt Barney, directed by Nancy R. Lutz; the Chancel Choir, conducted by Richard Minnotte; and pianist Kathleen Whittaker.

**The handbell anthem, “** The King of Glory Comes” is found in the Advent section of our supplemental hymnal *The Faith we Sing*.  The chorus is all about the Messianic promise. “The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices, open the gates before him, lift up your voices.”

**Acolytes** Anastasia Sunder and Emily Shoff

**Greeters 8:45** Joeta D'Este  **10:45** Hazel Cope and Gloria Barber

**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.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $30 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $60 for the chancel.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on 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.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

14 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

**Luke 1:26-38**

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ 34Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ 35The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.’ 38Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore, Jean Boyer,

Mary Caldwell, John Dean,

Joseph Festor, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Dave Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

Diane Shaw, Jinny Sheppard,

Betty Trout

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell,

Sgt. 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

**Condolences**

Sympathy is offered to the family of church member Jane Rulong who passed away on Monday, November 12, 2018, at the age of 87. Prayers of comfort can be sent to her husband:

 Rev. Roger Rulong

 700 Bower Hill Road Apt 5240

 Pittsburgh, PA 15243

The congregation offers sympathy to the family of 91 year-old church member Bill Ward. Bill passed away on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. Condolences can be sent to his wife:

Lavisa Ward

300 Madison Ave #311

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 THRU SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8**

**SUNDAY 12/2**

 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

 11:45 Youth Choir Choir Room

 5:00 pm Three Rivers Ringers Rehearsal Sanctuary

**MONDAY 12/3**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 12/4**

 6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7:30 pm Coin Collectors Welcome Center

**WEDNESDAY 12/5**

 7:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Asbury Kitchen

**THURSDAY 12/6**

 8:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Asbury Kitchen

 9:00 am Hearts and Hands Epworth

 11:30 Northside Lunch Asbury Kitchen

 12:00 pm TNT Asbury Heights

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**SATURDAY 12/8**

 9 am UMW Cookie Sale and Gift Bazaar Wesley