

**Second Sunday in Advent**

In his foretelling of the coming of the Messiah, the prophet Isaiah proclaims, *“A green shoot will sprout from Jesse’s stump, from his roots a budding branch.” (Isaiah 11:1, The Message)* This prophetic image proclaims that life is about to spring forth from dormancy and death. This hope gives a perspective from which to view the threats and worries of life. Those things are never the last word. Our hope is anchored in Jesus, the green shoot from the stump of Jesse!

**December 8, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to rise in body or spirit

**Gathering Music** 8:30 **Hymnal 202 People, look east** *Besançon*

 10:45 Savior of the nations, come *16th C German, arr. Cathy  Moklebust*

 Promise Bells

**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**

\*10:45 **Introit** Come, Lord, for in our hearts we make thee room.*Douglas E. Wagner*

**\*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 211 O come, O come, Emmanuel** (stanzas 1-4) *Veni Emmanuel*

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**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**

**\*Response Come and find the quiet center** (stanza 1) *Beach Spring*

**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,**

 **find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:**

 **clear the chaos and clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see**

 **all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

Shirley Erena Murray ©1992 Hope Publishing Company

**Moment for Missions** Cori DeLuca

 **TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**Advent Candle Lighting** 8:30 Dave and Paulette Colonna 10:45 Laura, Asher, and Silas Ward

**Worship & Song 3047 God Almighty, we are waiting** (stanza 2)*Hyfrydol*

 **God Incarnate, we are waiting for the feast day of your birth.**

 **Looking back and looking forward to the Christ’s return to earth.**

 **Help us to proclaim the gospel, ‘til the world is reconciled.**

 **Let us set your holy table for each woman, man, and child.**

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**\*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. 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.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Marcy Picardi 10:45 Jane Casey

**A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures**

 Isaiah 11:1-10 A shoot from Jesse’s stump

**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.**

**Scripture Reading**

**\* A Lesson from the New Testament**

 Romans 15:4-13 Let us adopt the attitude of Jesus

**Response**

 Leader: The Word of the Lord.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

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

10:45 **Handbell anthem** Let all mortal flesh keep silence *16th C French, arr. Barbara B Kinyon*

10:45 **Offertory anthem** The Tree of Life *text by Stephen P. Starke; Irish Carol arr. James Biery*

1.The tree of life with ev’ry good in Eden’s holy orchard stood,

 and of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.

 Yet in this garden also grew another tree, of which they knew;

 its lovely limbs with fruit adorned against whose eating God had warned.

 2. The stillness of that sacred grove was broken, as the serpent strove

 with tempting voice to Eve beguile and Adam too by sin defile.

 O day of sadness when the breath of fear and darkness, doubt and death,

 its awful poison first displayed within the world so newly made.

 3. What mercy God showed to our race, a plan of rescue by his grace:

 In sending One from woman’s seed, the One to fill our greatest need –

 for on a tree uplifted high his only Son for sin would die,

 would drink the cup of scorn and dread to crush the ancient serpent’s head!

 4. Now from that tree of Jesus’ shame flows life eternal in his name;

 for all who trust and will believe, salvation’s living fruit receive.

 And of this fruit so pure and sweet the Lord invites the world to eat,

 to find within this cross of wood the tree of life with ev’ry good.

 © 1993 Stephen Starke, admin. by Concordia Publishing House

\***Hymnal** **94 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** (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!**

adapt. © 1989 The U. Methodist Publishing House

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “A Shoot Springs Forth” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

\***Hymnal 214 Savior of the nations, come** (stanzas 1-4) *Nun komm, der heiden Heiland* stanzas 3-5 ©1969 Concordia Publishing House

\***Benediction**

\***Hymnal 214 Savior of the nations, come** (stanza 5) *Nun komm, der heiden Heiland*

stanzas 3-5 ©1969 Concordia Publishing House

**Today’s Service**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Bernice Merchant in loving memory of Bill, who passed away last year on December 26th.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Sara Mercer in memory and appreciation of Sara Lynn Schmidt, organ donor.

**The flowers at the columbarium** are given by Linda and Duane Kish in loving memory of Grace Gullborg.

**Acolyte** Addison Alexander **Greeters** 8:30 Judy Phelps 10:45 Betty Lou Albright

**Special Music at 10:45** is provided by the Promise Bells with percussionist Richard Minnotte, and Chapel Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz; and the Chancel Choir with Renate Sakins, oboe. Ms. Sakins’ presence is made possible through contributors to the Friends of Music Fund.

**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.

**Today’s Scripture**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

11A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; 4but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. 7The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. 9They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

10On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Romans 15:4-13**

4For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

5May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; 10and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; 11and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; 12and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

13May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

May Frederick, Manor Care Greentree

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Woody Kimmel, Providence Point

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Doris Trimble, Providence Point

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore,

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

John Dean, Joseph Festor,

Ezra Gibson, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Steve Howard, Dave Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

Bob Mallery, Jinny Sheppard, Carol Van Sickle, Arlene Stewart, Peyton Wisterman

**In the Military**

Matt Lewis, USMC,

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

*Each year the W PA Conference and Eastern German Conference create daily Advent and Christmas devotionals for use in our homes and churches. We have chosen devotionals from each week.*

 **Sonntag, 8. Dezember; Lukas 21, 25-28**

**Sophie und Markus Reichelt, Zwickau**

Advent, a time of waiting and anticipation. A preparation time for Christmas, the arrival of Jesus, of his birth. Every Advent Sunday has its own theme. The theme at the second Advent is "The expected second coming of Jesus". In Luke 21 Jesus gives insight into the future. This text describes natural disasters on Earth, as well as cosmic signs of the coming end time and announces the return of the Lord. In the past, people often talked about or even expected an end time, respectively an specific end to the world. For example, in 2012, when the Maja calendar expired. The Bible does not tell the exact time when Jesus will come again. God alone knows when this will happen. In the last verse of the passage, Jesus gives us instructions on how to behave when the end of the world comes. We all know the feeling of fear and anxiety, when it's about to get uncomfortable. Then we walk in a rather crooked way and duck our heads. Maybe we even behave very inconspicuously and move slowly. Currently there is a worldwide chaos. Wars, climate catastrophes and poverty are increasing. In addition, people's fears are intentionally fueled by potentates. Do we have to duck our heads? The answer is no. Jesus does not want us to be overwhelmed by fear. We should raise our heads instead. We know that Jesus will come again. We have heard so many stories about him, how he is like, how he speaks and we have experienced him in our own lives. This gives us the confidence that he will not let us down. Especially now in the Advent season, when this child of hope is born, we may feel that we are not alone in all the chaos. The heaviness is taken from us and we can raise our heads.

**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 to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium arrangements, and $66 for the chancel flowers.

**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.

**The office will be closed 12/24/19 – 1/1/20 for the holidays.**

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 THRU SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

**SUNDAY 12/8 - TEDDY BEAR SUNDAY**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 8:30 am The Gathering Asbury

9:30 am Sunday School Various

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 10:45 am Kids Praise Welcome Center

 11:45 am Youth Choir Choir Room

 12 pm Parents afternoon out Various

 4 pm Lessons and Carols St. Bernard’s

 **MONDAY 12/9**

7 pm Chapel Bells Bell Room

**TUESDAY 12/10**

10 am Weekday Ministries Chapel Sanner Chapel

6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury

 6:30 pm Family Promise Board of Directors Library

 6:30 pm Scout Merit Badge Network

 7 pm Scout Board of Reviews Network

 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

 7 pm Cub Scout Committee Planning Epworth

**WEDNESDAY 12/11**

 6:30 pm Finance Committee Dinner & Meeting Welcome Center

 7 pm Bear, Lion, Tiger, & Wolf Den Meetings Various

**THURSDAY 12/12**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Bell Room

 7 pm Education Committee Meeting Brookline Parlor

 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 12/13**

7 pm PK 870 Arrow of Light Epworth

**SATURDAY 12/14**

9 am UMW Cookie, Tea, & Gift Bazaar Asbury/Wesley