



# Wentz's United Church of Christ

3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, PA 19446 610.584.4855

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 10am  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



*“Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand.” Mother Teresa*

## PRELUDE

Greeting and Reply

Opening Hymn: **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (G-188)**

**1 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,**

**God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Refrain:**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"**

**2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.**

**Refrain:**

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"**

**3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.**

**Refrain:**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"**

## **Our Church's Mission:**

Welcome all into a loving, inclusive faith community,  
Seeking to live out the teachings of Jesus,  
Building on our own rich history,  
Actively exploring beliefs and assumptions, and Promoting justice, peace and spiritual growth.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: The people walking in the darkness have seen a great light:

**Many: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

One: For to us a child is born,

**Many: To us a son is given,**

One: The government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called the Wonderful Counselor,

**Many: Mighty God,**

One: Everlasting Father,

**Many: Prince of Peace.**

One: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

**Many: He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,**

One: Establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

**Many: The zeal of God will accomplish this**

*(Lighting of the candle)*

**Reader:** "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world would be registered. All went to their towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David." Today we remember Joseph, worn - out traveler and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the

sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

**All: Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kingdom of God.**

**Elder:** On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, and takes his place among royalty.

## Advent Song

Music: All 4 Stanza's of "Light the Advent Candle"

## Hebrew Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,

11 Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.

12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.

13 Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?"

14 Therefore 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.

15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

16 For 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.

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now 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.

19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

20 But 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.

21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

22 All 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."

24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

## INVOCATION

Worship & Praise through Music

Passing the Peace of Christ

## THE LORD'S PRAYER: (G-740)

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

Announcements

Offering

"O, How I Love Jesus" (G-109)

*There is a name I love to hear,  
I love to sing its worth;  
it sounds like music in my ear,  
the sweetest name on earth.*

**Refrain:**

***O, how I love Jesus,  
O, how I love Jesus,***

***O, how I love Jesus,  
because he first loved me!***

***It tells me of a Savior's love,  
who died to set me free;  
it tells me of his precious blood,  
the sinner's perfect plea.***

***Refrain:***

***O, how I love Jesus,  
O, how I love Jesus,  
O, how I love Jesus,  
because he first loved me!***

***It tells of One whose loving heart  
can feel my deepest woe,  
who in each sorrow bears a part,  
that none can bear below.***

***Refrain:***

***O, how I love Jesus,  
O, how I love Jesus,  
O, how I love Jesus,  
because he first loved me!***

Doxology (Praise God from whom all blessings flow)

Sermonic Hymn: **O Come, All Ye Faithful– (G-182)**

**1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him,  
born the King of angels.**

**Refrain:**

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**2 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:**

**Refrain:**

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:**

**Refrain:**

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**MESSAGE: What is this Thing Called Love?**



## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise

Prayers of the People

Benediction



## **POSTLUDE**

### **The Three-Minute Suggestion:**

Please spend the first three minutes with someone who is relatively new to our church family, or new to you. Get to know them like a friend might! THEN take some time with longtime friends. Thanks!

### **WORSHIP CONTINUES IN FELLOWSHIP:**

*Join for Coffee and Connections in the Connections Café brought to you this week by Andy Anderson and Dawn Stoler.*



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