



# Wentz's United Church of Christ

3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, PA 19446 610.584.4855

*Sunday, December 4th, 2022 10:00am  
Second Sunday of Advent*



*"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."  
– Henry Ford*

## **PRELUDE**

Greeting and Reply

## Opening Hymn: **Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (G-496)**

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms*

*Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.  
Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

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

Our Mission is Love. Our lives are constantly being formed and “reformed” by God’s love for us and our love of humanity.

We embrace each person’s gifts and encourage everyone to use them to engage with God and the world.

Families come in all colors, shapes and sizes. However, you define family, you and yours are welcome here.

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;

**Many: From his roots a Branch will bear much fruit.**

One: The Spirit of God will rest on him-

**Many: The Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,**

One: The Spirit of counsel and of power.

**Many: The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of God.**

One: And he will delight in the fear of God.

**many: He will not judge by what he sees with his own eyes, but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.**

One: The wolf will live with the lamb.

**Many: The leopard will lie down with the goat,**

One: They will neither be harm or destruction on all my holy mountain,

**Many: For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.**

*(Lighting of the candle)*

**Reader:** "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

**People:** Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

**Elder:** On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

## Advent Song

### Hebrew Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-8

#### **The Valley of Dry Bones**

1The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." 4Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

7So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

### Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

#### **The Proclamation of John the Baptist**

1In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

4Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

## INVOCATION

Worship & Praise through Music

Passing the Peace of Christ

## 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.

Announcements

Offering

**We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise:**

***We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.  
We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.  
We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.  
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving.  
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of praise.***

***Joy***

***Love***

Doxology (Praise God from whom all blessings flow)

**Sermonic Hymn: *When Peace Like a River* (G-428)**

***When peace like a river attendeth my way***

***When sorrows like sea billows roll***

***Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say***

***It is well, it is well with my soul***

***It is well (it is well)***

***With my soul (with my soul)***

***It is well, it is well with my soul***

***Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come***

***Let this blest assurance control***

***That Christ (yes, He has) has regarded my helpless estate***

***And has shed His own blood for my soul***

***It is well (it is well)***

***With my soul (with my soul)***

***It is well, it is well with my soul***

***My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought (a thought)***

***My sin, not in part, but the whole (every bit, every bit, all of it)***

***Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more (yes!)***

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!***

***It is well (it is well)***

***With my soul (with my soul)***

***It is well, it is well with my soul***

***It is well (it is well)***

***With my soul (with my soul)***

***It is well, it is well with my soul***

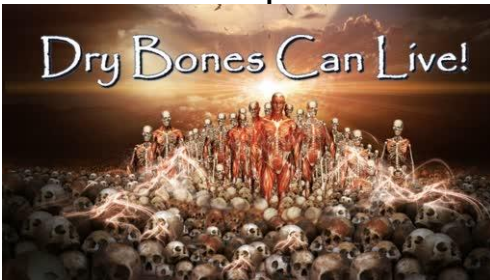
***And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight***

***The clouds be rolled back as a scroll***

*The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend  
Even so, it is well with my soul!*

*It is well (it is well)  
With my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul  
Sing up to Jesus, it is well!  
It is well (it is well)  
With my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul*

MESSAGE: Speak to the Bones



RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Communion Hymn: **Draw Me Nearer (G-408)**

*I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice,  
and it told thy love to me;  
but I long to rise in the arms of faith  
and be closer drawn to thee.*

*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to the cross where thou hast died.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to thy precious, bleeding side.*

***Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord,  
by the power of grace divine;  
let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,  
and my will be lost in thine.***

***Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to the cross where thou hast died.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to thy precious, bleeding side.***

***O the pure delight of a single hour  
that before thy throne I spend,  
when I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God,  
I commune as friend with friend!***

***Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to the cross where thou hast died.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to thy precious, bleeding side.***

#### **SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:**

**Elder:** Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**People:** In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

**Elder:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also, with you.

**Elder:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Elder:** Let us give thanks to God.

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



Elder: God of us all we acknowledge your many names and we thank you for all that you are and for all that you do in the world.

Therefore, with all your people gathered in this place and online we sing your praises and lift your name high:

**People: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Pastor Mike:**

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it.

We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage in the peace of your abiding presence, the Holy Spirit in our midst.

We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you.

Come, Fresh Wind. Come, Holy Spirit Move over these symbols of life and celebration, let this bread be nourishing to our spirits. Let this wine quench our thirsty souls, let these symbols be your body and blood for us.

**All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Rev: Words of Remembrance and Sharing of the Lord's Table**

We come to this table to remember how you became human through your son Jesus.

Who on the night he was forsaken by some of His beloveds, shared food and wine with all those he loved.

He took bread, the symbol of life, broke it and shared it with them saying this is my body broken for you.

And he took a cup of wine, symbol of celebration and joy, shared it with them saying this is my blood shed for you.

We come here to do the same.

## **Sharing of the Lord's Table**

### **Closing of table**

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 Carl & Henrietta Kurtz and Bev Gresch in honor of Rev's first Sunday with Wentz's.*



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Mike Todd- Deacon/Pastoral Assistant  
Corey Taragna- Lead Trustee  
Donna Mower – Guild President  
June Wright- Organist  
Laura McLennan and Jim O'Donnell- Music Dept  
Matt MacDonald- social media