Advent 2

December 10, 2023



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Lancaster, PA

The Holy Eucharist

Advent

Welcome to Advent! This season is necessary and important for us as we take this time to remind ourselves of our need of a Savior. The prayerful, thoughtful attitude of Advent makes our celebration of the birth of Christ a true time of happiness. Welcome into this time of preparation and hope.

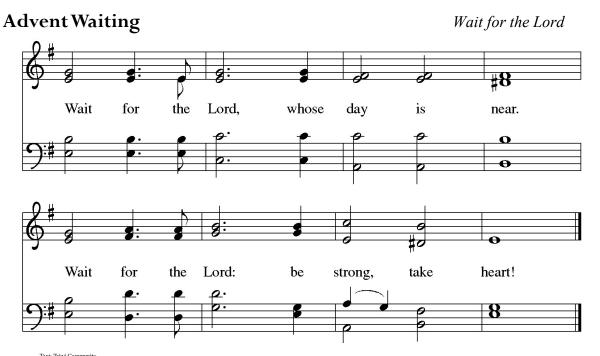
If you are visiting with us, a special welcome. We invite you to return and worship with us as often as you are able. Please sign the guest book in the narthex. Guest cards are also available. Please take one, fill it out and return it to an usher. The offering box is by the baptismal font to receive your gift of an offering. If you need a large print bulletin, please ask an usher. As you enter the nave, please conclude all conversations and silence all cell phones and other electronic devices, as to fully enter into this time of worship.

Please indicate to the Pastor if you require gluten free wafers, prior to worship, if possible.

Prelude

Announcements

Time of Prayer and Meditation



Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and music: © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, II. 60638.
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Centering Prayer

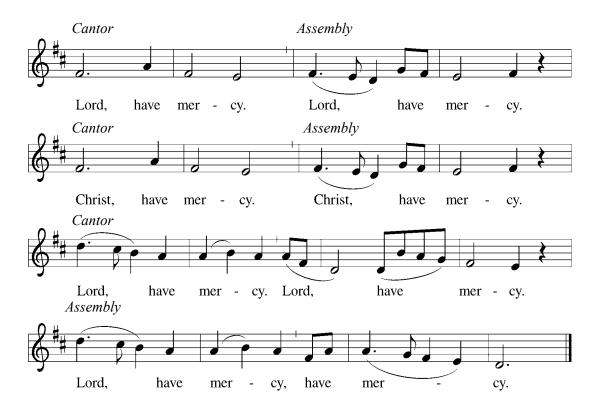
P We praise you, O God, for your creating, liberating, and life-giving Word! You set the foundations of the world, you lead your people into freedom, you lift up the lowly, and fill the hungry with good things. Our hearts sing of our hopeful waiting! Center us in your Spirit, that our lives may witness to your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please stand.

The Kyrie

The Kyrie is sung in dialogue by the cantor and the assembly.



Confession and Forgiveness

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.
- C Amen.
- P God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Everlasting God,
- C you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
 We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
 We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
 We choose comfort over courage.
 We are careless with creation's bounty.
 Look upon us with mercy.
 Turn our hearts again to you.
 Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.
 Amen.
- P Hear these words of assurance:
 God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
 God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.
- C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Lift Up Your Eyes Joel Raney

Marty Brunner and Georgeanne Burkholder

- F During Advent, God's light illuminates a weary world. For any who have grown weary of waiting:
- C God speaks, "Peace, be still."
- F For any who are anxious about the worries of tomorrow:
- C "God speaks, "Peace, be still."
- F For any whose lips have been silenced:
- C "God speaks, "Peace, be still."
- F This morning we light two candles. The **first candle** reminds us in a dark and weary world, that our hope lies securely in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. The **second candle** radiates God's perfect peace to calm our restless souls. As we continue our journey, let us be encouraged with hope, comforted with peace, and guided in truth.

The Advent Candle is lit.

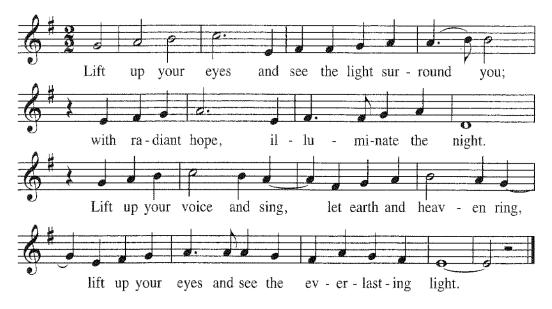
F Gracious Lord, our souls long for the peace that only you can provide. We confess that, all too often, we only add to the discord, separation, and tension around us. Help us to feel your peace in our lives and strive to reflect it more in our witness. We pray this in Jesus' name.

C Amen

Lift Up Your Eyes

Congregation & Choir

The Congregation and Choir sing after the lighting of the Advent Candle



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First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah:

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GoD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (Read responsively with the lector.)

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

Selah

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹²The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from Second Peter: ⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a} and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

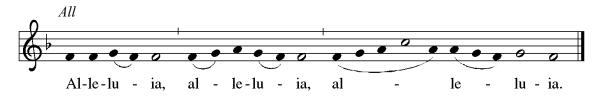
L The word of the Lord.

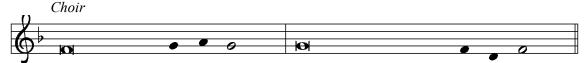
C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Alleluia Verse

Everyone sings the Alleluia. The choir then sings the verse. Everyone sings the Alleluia again.





Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

Repeat Alleluia

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Hymn #255



Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

The Apostles Creed

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church

A With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

As a sign of resurrection glory, the people sit or kneel for the prayers.

After each portion of the prayers:

- P Merciful God,
- C Receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
- C Amen.

Please stand.

The Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.

C And also with you.

Without leaving your seat offer a wave to your neighbor, sharing God's peace, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

Project Peace Hymn

When our Song Says Peace

Hymn #709

We commit ourselves to these five weekly actions: 1. Daily prayer and meditation. 2. Creating peace in our homes and our relationships. 3. Not returning violence for violence. 4. Advocating for and protecting the vulnerable. 5. Doing one thing each day to make the world more peaceful.

The hymn may be followed by a time of silence, a testimony, or community conversation.



Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Rexi: Alchard Leadh, b. 1992 Music: JENKINS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962 Text © 1997 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. www.selahpub.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

Please be seated.

Offering

During this time our offerings are represented through the gift of music, bread, and wine. Following the service you are invited to give your financial gifts in the offering plates located in the back of the sanctuary.

Anthem

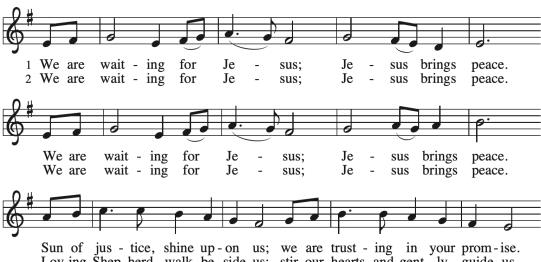
People Look East

John Leavitt

Please stand.

The Offertory Response

We Are Waiting for Jesus



Lov-ing Shep-herd, walk be-side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

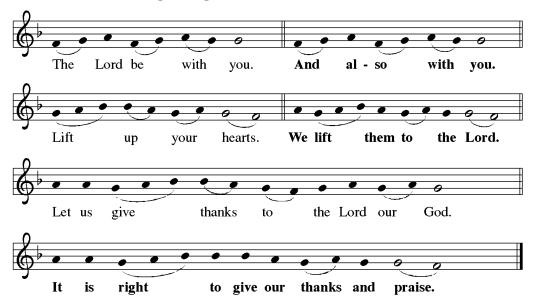
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Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray. God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

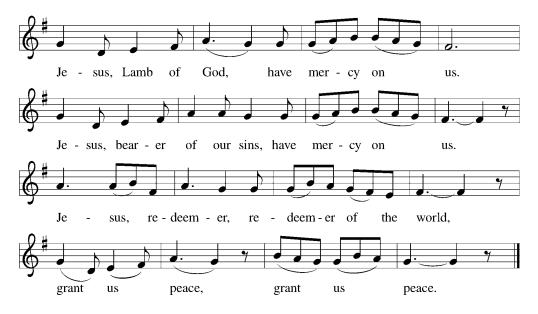
Lord's Prayer

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 and ever. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

P In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

The Lamb of God



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

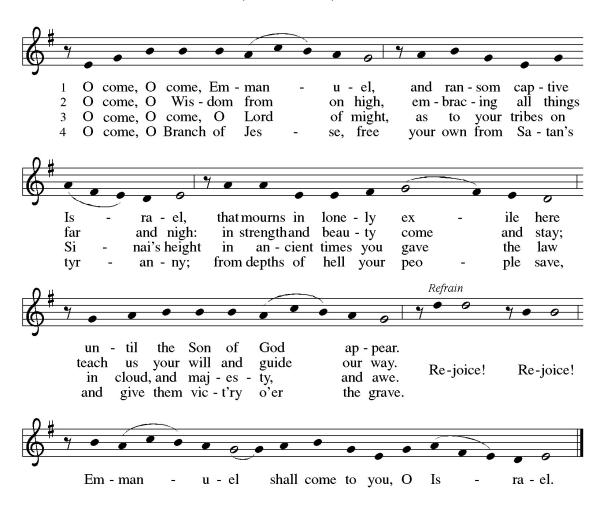
The Distribution of Holy Communion

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices open table hospitality. Baptized communicants of other Christian denominations, of all ages, are welcome to receive the sacrament. An usher will direct each seating area to come forward to receive the sacrament. Bring your communion cup with you, or take one from the usher. We return to the practice of continuous communion around the Table with safe distancing by household groups. Please **stand** at the communion rail and the pastor will place the bread into the hands of communicants and then they will receive the cup from the Assisting Ministers. The second chalice contains grape juice. A gluten free wafer is available upon request. Those persons not receiving communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Hymns During Communion

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	Hymn #250
	verses 1-4
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding	Hymn# 246
Savior of the Nations, Come	Hymn# 263

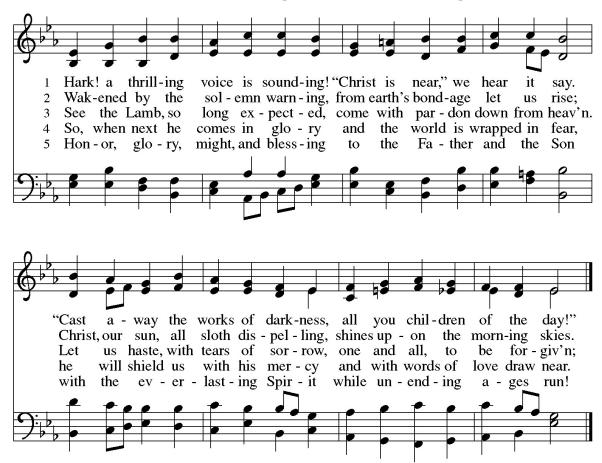
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

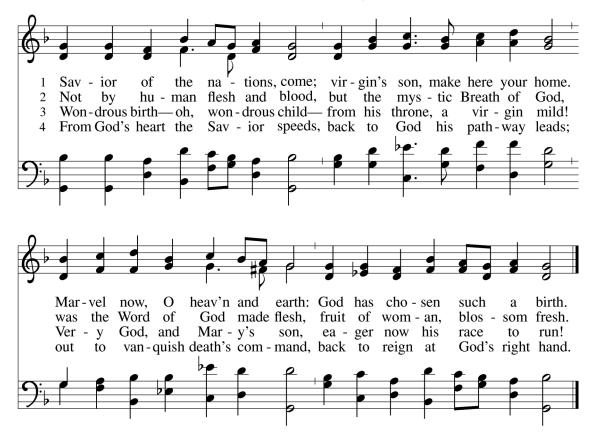
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Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Please stand

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

The Blessing

P The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Hymn #249

Sending to Serve

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+++

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Sponsors

The bulletin is sponsored by Coleen Aston and dedicated to the glory of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The pass thru room at the top of the steps next to the office is now broadcasting our church service LIVE every Sunday. If you need to leave the sanctuary for any reason, you are welcome to continue worshiping by viewing the service in that room.

Year End Giving

When looking at the calendar, please note that December 31st falls on a Sunday. All offerings received on December 31 will be deposited on the bank's next business day, January 2, 2024. These contributions will thus be reflected on your 2024 giving statement. If you would like any year-end giving to be included on your 2023 statement, we encourage you to please have these funds to the church no later than <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>December 26</u>. This applies to envelope and on-line contributions. Thank you for our cooperation.

Suzann Schwenk, Stewardship Chairperson Donna Null, Treasurer

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Worship Assistants

Dec. 10	Dec. 17
Acolyte	Acolyte
Sam Dandridge	Grant Slutter
Assisting Ministers	Assisting Ministers
Doug Dandridge Patti LaPorte	Tim Smith Andrew Knaub
Lector	Lector
Noelle Dandridge	Marilyn Knaub
Greeter	Greeter
Mary Ann Russell	Marilyn Knaub
Usher	Usher
Don Eckert	John Schmitt
Bread Provider	Bread Provider
Janet Wiegand	Patti LaPorte
Altar Guild Set-up	Altar Guild Set-up
Noelle Dandridge Janet Wiegand	Diana Thompson
Altar Guild Clean-up	Altar Guild Clean-up
Sue Froehlich Linda Rogers	Diana Thompson
Council Person	Council Person
Doug Dandridge	Jan Wacker
Counters	Counters
Suzann Schwenk	Suzann Schwenk
Sandy Rohrback	Sandy Stouffer
Technology	Technology
Chip/Mel	Doug/Danica

Coming up at Holy Spirit

December

- 13 Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. Holden Evening Prayer, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Bible Study–Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Decorate the church for Christmas, 10:45 a.m.
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 11:00 a.m.Holden Evening Prayer, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Bible Study– Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 22 Poinsettia Placement at the church
- Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.

 Christmas Eve Worship, 6:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

 (Live streaming will be available for the 9 pm service.)
- 31 Worship-Christmas Hymns, 9:30 a.m.

January

- 4 Bible Study @ Centerville Diner, 6:00 p.m.
- 7 Heritage Chorale, 4:00 p.m.
- 9 9 Book Club, 7:00 p.m. *The Keeper of the Hidden Books*by Madeline Martin



3131 Columbia Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

Pastor- The Rev. Gretchen Ierien Music Director- Allison Carlson

