

November 30, 2025
10:15 AM
First Sunday in Advent

THEME PARAGRAPH for bulletin cover:

Sometimes Advent, and indeed the entire Christian tradition, can take on an unfortunate tone: “Just get through all the crappy stuff, and then life will be great!” That isn’t what’s happening in today’s texts. The author of Isaiah’s prophecy knows hunger, violence, and chaos intimately and still testifies to the coming peaceful, abundant, perfect reign of God. Even in the midst of the worst that the world offers, Isaiah’s author sees the reign of God break in.

+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND GREETING

PRELUDE Sleepers Wake - J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to the season of Advent,
the time when we remember
that God is urgently waiting
to finally arrive.

God, we have been waiting for you, too.

**Yet you often arrive before we notice:
in the place we did not expect,
in the word we did not hear.**

Right before you change a life,
your angels always say,
“Do not be afraid.”

**You are here to change this place and us.
We are not afraid.**

HYMN ELW 260 The King Shall Come

GREETING

Peace to you and welcome,
from the God who makes newness from nothing,
the Savior who brought warmth to tomb,
the Spirit who innovates from the ashes.
And also with you

ADVENT HYMN God of the Starlight and Moon



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In deep blue darkness, lighting a single candle creates only uncertainty.

Light dances around uncertain shapes, and the dark refuses to yield its secrets.

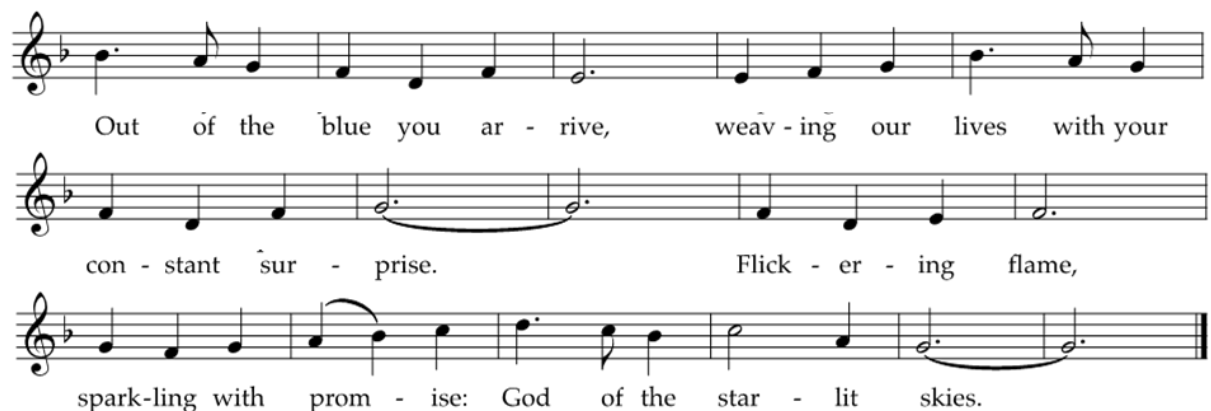
This first candle on our Advent wreath represents our first flickering glimpse of the goodness God has hidden in divine darkness.

In time we will apprehend every blessing hinted from ancient prophecies and prepared under the cover of deep darkness.

But not yet, not fully.

The first candle is lit.

ADVENT HYMN God of the Starlight and Moon



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Jesus, and come. Come to us in unexpected ways, surprising us out of the ordinariness in which we find ourselves. Come into the holy tension in which we find ourselves and shine your light, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5 – *from God’s Word, My Voice: A Lectionary for Children*

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

Now our feet are standing

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city

that is at unity with itself;

to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,

the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

For there are the thrones of judgment,

the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls

and quietness within your towers.

For the sake of my kindred and companions,

I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek to do you good.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
heav'n de-scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

At the beginning of the reading:

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 723 Canticle of the Turning

STATEMENT OF FAITH *for the season of Advent*

**We are an Advent people,
a people of hope.**

**For us, Advent is a time of waiting,
and so we wait.**

**We wait for the coming of the One
who is the fulfillment of God's promise,**

the fulfillment of hope,
the declaration that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naïve people.
We know that the world in which we live
will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow.
We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.
We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people,
we know that none of these things will win in the end.

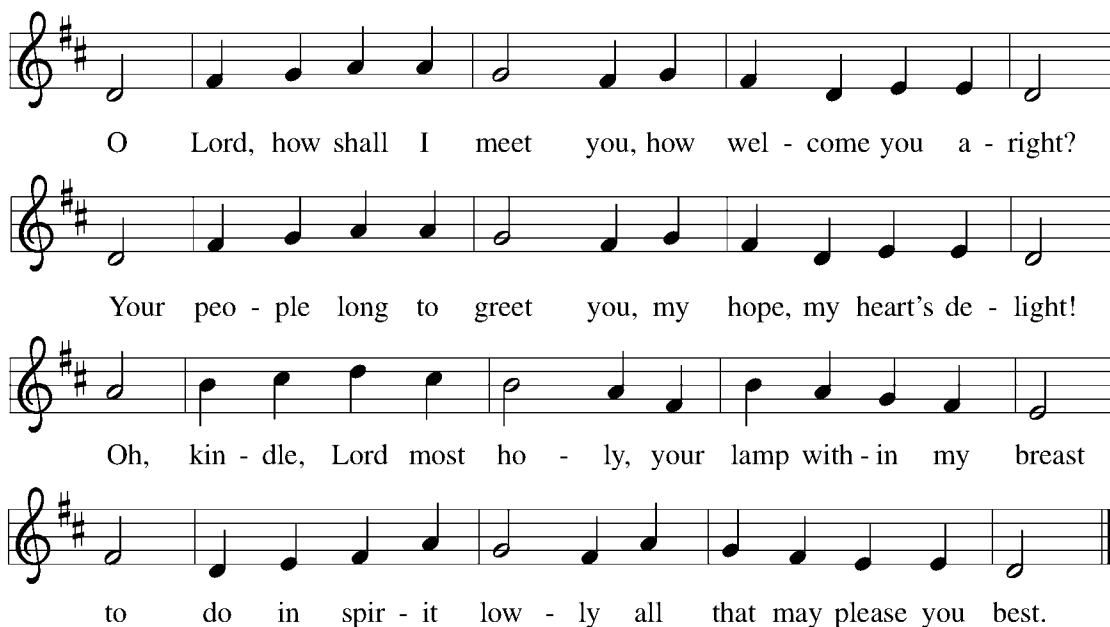
The Holy One is coming,
to make holy once again
all that was, is, and ever will be.

And in our waiting and our hoping,
we work and worship,
pray and play,
in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will show up,
out of the blue,
in our lives and in our world,
now and forever.
Amen

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING But who may abide the Day of His Coming?
from "The Messiah" - G.F. Handel
Will Pederson, baritone

OFFERTORY



O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God, we cherished what we thought belonged only to us: our money and our time and our families and our freedom.

Yet in a moment, we recognize that every truly good thing was a treasure we had taken from your open hand. We thought such treasures were ours to earn and to own.

You grow what we give away. So we give you these gifts as a sign of your love and faithfulness. We pray in the name of the One for whom we wait, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

As you leave from this place, adjust your expectations to God's promises.

There is friendship after loneliness,
there is hope after every last breath.

There is already life in the desert.
There is even delight in decline.

**For we tell the story
of new life from the grave.**

In the world drained of color
God arrives out of the blue.

SENDING HYMN ELW 248 People, Look East

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to wait and watch.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE People, look East - Roberta Rowland-Raybold

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PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Leonard Gibeon, David Mounts, Ed & Billie Schanely, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Richard Ditzler, Joy Miller, Alyson Harvey, Audrey Sell, Marie Wolfe, Erik Ockenlaender, Bob Ernst, Sr., Mary Eberle, Tom Gracie, the Isett family, Brandon Blanchard, Gladys Kazalonis, Elizabeth Brossett and family and Fred Orrik.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, December 6	9-11 The Open Link Food Collection 6:30pm Christmas Carols, Cocoa and Cookies Concert
Sunday, December 7	Poinsettia Orders due today 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship

Fall Concert Series Join us for our final concert this fall

Christmas Carols, Cocoa and Cookies Concert

Saturday, December 6 at 6:30 PM. There will be lots of opportunity to sing your favorite carols during the concert – and then cookies, cocoa and coffee following the concert! All are welcome!

Sign up to assist with worship on Christmas Eve or to go Caroling on December 14th following



Scan to sign up
to go caroling!!

worship
outside PB's office door.
Or try one of our QR codes to add your name to the list.



Scan to sign up
to help
Christmas Eve

Adding Machine Needed The mint duty team is in need of one or two adding machines to replace the ones they are using which are no longer working well. If you have one or would like to purchase one to donate, that would be helpful.

Advent Tree Gifts

Once again this year, St. John's will partner with two organizations to provide Christmas gifts to our local community. On Nov 23 the Advent trees went up with tags for residents from Pennsburg Manor. These gifts need to be returned to St. John's – *wrapped and with the tag attached* – by Sunday, December 14.

An online gift registry with gift suggestions for the Rev. Harvey Davis Family Fund through KenCrest is at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-60605686-advent#/>

KenCrest is a social services agency that supports community development for people with intellectual or development disabilities as well as young children and is supported by the SEPA Synod. The gifts from the online registry need to be returned to St. John's – *unwrapped* – by Sunday, December 14.

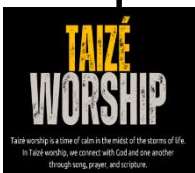
We appreciate your generosity in helping residents of Pennsburg Manor and children served by KenCrest have a wonderful Christmas this year!

St. John's Annual Meeting will be during worship on Sunday, December 14th. Copies of the proposed 2026 budget are available in the parlor and narthex. Please take time to review the proposed budget and direct any questions to Mike Herm, treasurer, BEFORE the annual meeting. Mike will be available after worship today and Dec 7.

Our 3rd annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held at Friedens cemetery on Saturday, December 13th at 10:00 am.

For \$17 you can sponsor a wreath to be placed on a veteran's headstone. You can either place it yourself during the ceremony or have a volunteer place it for you. When ordering, please make sure it says Sponsor Group: PA0778 - Perkiomen Valley VFW Post 5954. Scan the QR code or visit online at: <https://wreathsassamerica.org/pages/175562>

For more information contact Sharon Shipe at 215-896-1324 or Shipe112@comcast.net.



This fall, the Reformed churches in the Upper Perkiomen Valley will offer a more contemplative, mid-week worship opportunity – all are welcome!

3rd Wednesdays from 6-7 PM

Dec 17 – New Goshenhoppen UCC, East Greenville

Jan 21 – Friedens UCC, Sumneytown



2025 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Orders are due in the church office by Sunday, December 7.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Plant Information -

6" Red Poinsettia

_____ Total # plants (\$10 each)

Please return this form in an envelope marked **Poinsettia Flower Order** on the outside to the church office or offering plate. Please provide exact cash or checks made payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church".

Please indicate how you would like the flower donation listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins (use back, if needed):

In honor / memory of _____

by _____

2025 Cookie Walk Form

Please fill out this slip and return to the church office or complete the form online at:
<https://forms.gle/qQV4Nfx2kTNYwcjH6> or scan the QR code here!



Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Check all that apply:

_____ I am willing to help at the Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 12th.

_____ I am able to help on December 13th (sign up times coming later)

_____ I am able to bake cookies (10 dozen of the same cookie) for the Cookie Walk, to be dropped off
no later than Dec. 12 at 5pm

I am willing to bake _____ doz. of _____

type of cookie. (*We will try to eliminate duplicate recipes so we have a variety of cookies.*)

_____ Cookie contains nuts

Questions?

Contact Kathy Drosey: (kjdbeach@comcast.net)
or Sarah Toback (sarahtoback@gmail.com)

Longest Night Services

WORSHIP CENTERED ON PEACE
HOPE AND HEALING

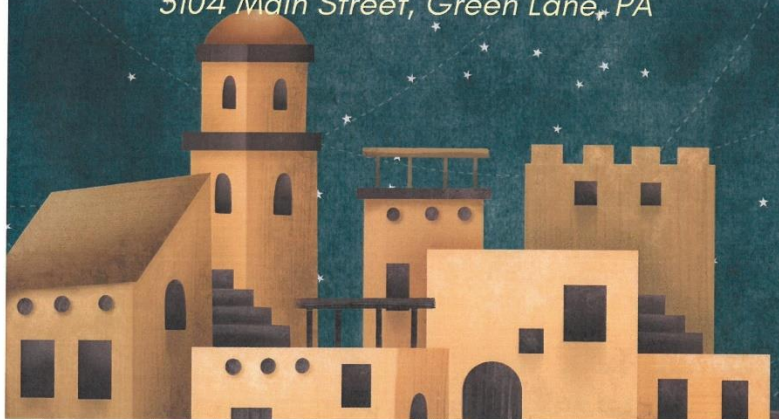
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

2:00 PM - ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN

1244 St. Paul's Church Road, Pennsburg, PA

6:00 PM - ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

3104 Main Street, Green Lane, PA



URGENT PANTRY NEEDS:

- SOUPS AND STEWS
- COOKING OIL
- CANNED FRUIT IN JUICE
- FRESH PRODUCE - ORANGES, APPLES, POTATOES, ONIONS
- PANCAKE AND BAKING MIXES
- SNACK ITEMS - CRACKERS, COOKIES, CHIPS, PRETZELS
- CONDIMENTS - MAYO, MUSTARD, KETCHUP
- SALAD DRESSINGS
- CEREAL
- CANNED CHICKEN
- PEANUT BUTTER
- JELLY
- CANNED PASTA
- RICE & PASTA SIDES



THE
OPEN LINK