

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2023
9:30 a.m.



We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

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.

Everlasting God,
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.

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.
Amen.

Gathering Song: “Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)”

Verse 1

What hope we hold this starlit night
A King is born in Bethlehem
Our journey long we seek the light
That leads to the hallowed manger ground

Verse 2

What fear we felt in the silent age
Four-hundred years can He be found
But broken by a baby's cry
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground

Chorus

Emmanuel Emmanuel
God incarnate here to dwell
Emmanuel Emmanuel
Praise His name Emmanuel

Verse 3

The Son of God here born to bleed
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow
And we beheld this offering
Exalted now the King of kings
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground

Chorus

Emmanuel Emmanuel
God incarnate here to dwell
Emmanuel Emmanuel
Praise His name Emmanuel
(Praise His name Emmanuel)

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Advent 2

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.
You fasten righteousness around your waist
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.
Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.
We ask that peace abound,
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

Amen.

Light the second candle.

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. . . Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings for The Second Sunday of Advent

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

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.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

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.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st 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.

Sermon

Song of Praise: “Mary Had a Baby”

Mary had a baby, my Lord.
Mary had a baby, my Lord.
Mary had a baby, Mary had a baby,
Mary had a baby, my Lord.

Born in a manger, my Lord.
Born in a manger, my Lord.
Born in a manger, born in a manger,
born in a manger, my Lord.

She named him King Jesus, my Lord.
She named him King Jesus, my Lord.
She named him King Jesus, she named him King Jesus,
she named him King Jesus, my Lord.

Apostle’s Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

Prayers of the Church

(Each prayer ends with ...*Merciful God, the congregation responds: receive our prayer.*)

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you

The Offering Please leave your offering on our website: https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-LCajFevTkh9MYPCImH2sG-jdxWYJMFGW_lQfxkD4hBw8WoQ6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKkoPpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3

The Offertory

Offertory Prayer

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.
Amen.**

Sacrament

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
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.**

Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Prayer After Communion

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.
Amen.

Sending

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "Born in Bethlehem"

Verse 1

Baby Jesus born in a stable
A humble Savior's birth
You left Your throne in heaven above
To live here on earth

Verse 2

Baby Jesus lyin' in a manger
Cryin' for the world
The angels told the shepherds
Of the good news for us all

Chorus

Hallelujah the King is here
Given for all men
For today the holy Son of God
Is born in Bethlehem

Verse 3

Come thou sinners and you saints
All peasants and all kings
And bow before the earth's Redeemer
Let all voices sing

Verse 4

Baby Jesus do You know
You'll die for all our sins
Don't be afraid for in three days
You will rise again

Chorus

Hallelujah the King is here
Given for all men
For today the holy Son of God
Is born in Bethlehem


For today the holy Son of God
Is born in Bethlehem

Dismissal

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

OUR MISSION - FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To *gather* as God's people and nurture one another.
- + To *know* the Word of God
- + To *grow* in faith, love, and service
- + To *go* into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.



SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew E Ollikainen
 Music Director Michael Dettra
 Worship Assistant Open



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Peg & George Spahn in memory of their dear friend, Barbara Hertz, and to the Glory of God.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 26, 8:00 am 19 9:30 am 31 Sunday School 5 **TOTAL 55**

PASTOR MATT'S END OF DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Pastor Matt will be out of the office from Tuesday, December 26, to Wednesday, January 3, when he returns. Pastoral emergency coverage will be in next week's bulletin.

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR END OF DECEMBER

The church office will not be attended during the week of Tuesday, December 26 and will reopen on Wednesday, January 3.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For November 2023		
	Rec'vd for Nov 2023	Budget for Nov 2023
General Fund	\$12,684.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$2,601	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$63	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$817	
Total	\$16,165.93	\$19,313.00
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-11/30/23	Budget YTD 1/1-11/30/23
General Fund	\$127,253.79	\$190,091.00
Mortgage	\$25,955.00	\$20,878.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$708.00	\$1,474.00
Other Benevolence	\$7,548.00	
Total	\$161,464.79	\$212,443.00



CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

The annual holiday concert will be held on **Friday evening, December 15, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.** under the direction of Music Director, Mike Dettra. You can look forward to kicking off the holidays with an hour of relaxation and entertainment. Light refreshments will be served. Thank you for supporting Mike and his band.



SOCIAL MINISTRY GIFT CARD RETURN EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 10

The return of the gift cards has been extended to Sunday, December 10. The **gift cards** support the families that come to the Warminster Food Bank. The cards may be in any amount that you prefer. The envelopes will once again have suggestions for area businesses that are local to our community. Please take an envelope for each card that you purchase. The envelopes are available in the red tin box on the same table as the offering plate.

Please return your envelopes by December 10 so they can be distributed during December. Don't forget to mark the front of the envelopes so they may be distributed according to family needs.

Thank you for your continued support of the Warminster Food Bank and the families who depend on us every month. **50 pounds** of food have been taken to the Warminster Food Bank in November.

Nancy Sclight/Social Ministry



YOU'RE INVITED TO PLAY IN THE PRAISE BAND OR SING WITH THE VOCAL CHOIR

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir invite you to join them during the Advent season! Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and the Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. Please see Mike Dettra for more details.



POINSETTIA LIST

A sign-up sheet for dedicating poinsettias for Christmas Eve is on the table in the narthex. Please sign up by **December 17**. You can also call the office to leave your dedication. Poinsettias may be picked up any time after the 7:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. The cost will be \$15.00.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE IN DECEMBER

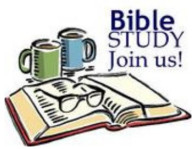
On Christmas Eve, **December 24**, and New Year's Eve, **December 31**, there will be **no Sunday School class**. Class will resume on **January 7**.



PING PONG - TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm.

Please call the church 215-355-2529 if you want to give it a try. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY, 7:00 PM via ZOOM

The study is on the book **Bonhoeffer** by John W. Matthews. From the Theology for Life Series, it is a brief overview of the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632518358?pwd=Smg5dm1Ba0VZamZjNG1YMko2MlVvdz09>
Meeting ID: 896 3251 8358 Passcode: 011905



STITCH CLUB CHANGE

Stitch Club will no longer be meeting on Saturdays.

The Stitch club items are **available throughout the year**. If you need any of the items made by the Stitch Club, i.e., blankets, hats, baby items, please contact Hanna McCollum, 215-262- 9032, or Jeff Jobses, 215-355-4149



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

The 2024 sign-up sheet to dedicate flowers to beautify the altar each Sunday is available. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex with your name and dedication. Two bouquets are available each week. The cost is \$25 per bouquet. In addition to making the altar more beautiful, you take the flowers home after the late service to enjoy during the week. If

you have any questions call Cindy Frey 267-205-0713.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which does vital ministry in North Philadelphia. A sign-up chart is on the table in the narthex near the entrance to the sanctuary.



DRIVE in AND DROP off FOOD COLLECTION

If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive in and drop off the food under the seat of the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. A list of the Food Bank’s most needed items is in the narthex or on the website www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 10

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
- Sunday School age 4 – grade 6
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:45 am Church Council Meeting

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 6:30 pm Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 6:30-7:15 Praise Band Practice
- 7:15-8:00 Vocal Choir Practice

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 7:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 7:30 pm Christmas Jazz Concert
- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 17

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
- Sunday School age 4 – grade 6
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:45 am Adult Bible Study