

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 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: "Manger Throne"

What kind of King would leave His throne
In Heaven to make this earth His home?
While men seek fame and great renown
In lowliness our King comes down

Jesus, Jesus, precious one
How we thank You that You've come
Jesus, Jesus, precious one
A manger throne for God's own son

You left the sound of angels' praise
To come for men with unkind ways
And by this Baby's helplessness
The power of nations is laid to rest

Jesus, Jesus, precious one
How we thank You that You've come
Jesus, Jesus, precious one
A manger throne for God's own son

What kind of King would come so small
From glory to a humble stall?
That dirty manger is my heart too
I'll make it a royal throne for You

Jesus, Jesus, precious one
How we thank You that You've come
Jesus, Jesus, precious one
A manger throne for God's own son

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 1

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

Light the first candle.

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. . . Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings for The First Sunday of Advent

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
⁴**O LORD! God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 13^h Chapter
C: Glory to You, O Lord

Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of Praise: “Emmanuel”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel
We love Him so, we love Him so,
His name is called Emmanuel

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: "The King of Glory"

Dismissal

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

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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	Jennifer McQuiggan



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 26, 8:00 am 20 9:30 am 23 Sunday School 5 **TOTAL 48**

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For October 2023		
	Rec'vd for Oct 2023	Budget for Oct 2023
General Fund	\$12,612.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$2,326	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$23	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$457	
Total	\$15,418.93	\$19,313.00
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-10/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-10/31/23
General Fund	\$114,568.86	\$172,810.00
Mortgage	\$23,354.00	\$18,980.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$645.00	\$1,340.00
Other Benevolence	\$6,731.00	
Total	\$145,298.86	\$193,130.00



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Advent's annual Christmas brunch will be held on **Sunday, December 3, 2023**, in the Fellowship Hall, immediately after the 9:30 worship service. All family members and friends are welcome to attend. For those who are able, please bring hot or cold breakfast and/or lunch items to share with everyone. Suggestions include breakfast meats, pancakes, waffles, casseroles, vegetables, salads, pastry, breads, fruit, desserts, your favorite dish, or whatever you wish. These should be brought into the church kitchen prior to the 9:30 a.m. service. The oven in the kitchen will be available to warm up items and Advent will supply paper products, as well as hot and cold beverages. This event lasts about an hour. Festive live Christmas music will be provided by Advent's own talented musicians.



ADVENT'S CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING-DECEMBER 3

We will be decorating the Christmas Tree in the narthex on Sunday, December 3, after the Christmas Brunch. All are invited to participate.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's breakfast will meet on Saturday, December 9. (If you attended the breakfast in November, you will know what is on the menu for Saturday, December 9). Coffee is always ready by 7:30. **Dave**



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. **120 pounds** of food have been taken to the Warminster Food Bank in Sept/October.
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.



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.



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

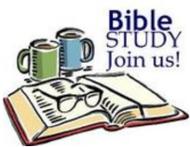
On Christmas Eve, **December 24**, and New Year's Eve, **December 31**, there will be **no Sunday School class**. Class will resume on **January 7**.



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=Smg5dm1Ba0VZamZjNG1YMko2MlVvdzo9>
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 Jobes, 215-355-4149



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

There are dates still available for 2023 to dedicate flowers to beautify the altar each Sunday. 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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 3

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 – grade 6
- 10:30 am Holiday Brunch
Tree Decorating

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 6:30 pm Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 7:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 8:30 am Men's Breakfast

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: Rose Herbert
- 10:45 am Church Council Meeting